

THE  
CLIMBS ON LLIWEDD  
BY  
J. M. ARCHER THOMSON  
AND  
A. W. ANDREWS



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## THE CLIMBS ON LLIWEDD

*"Lliwedd, wind summit of a breaking wave,  
Rock-hearted, shall not fall."*



# THE CLIMBS ON LLIWEDD

BY

J. M. ARCHER THOMSON, M.A.

AND

A. W. ANDREWS, M.A.

MEMBERS OF THE ALPINE CLUB

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND DIAGRAMS

ISSUED BY THE CLIMBERS' CLUB

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## GENERAL PREFACE

CLIMBING clubs have two reasons for existence: to initiate acquaintance and perpetuate friendship among mountaineers, and to provide them with authoritative information as to where to go, what to do, and what not to do.

Comparatively few years ago climbing clubs were still only a luxury. The pioneers were few in number; they could get their information direct from one another, and their own judgment was based upon a wide and gradual experience. Climbers are now as numerous as their rocks, and as scattered. Enterprise is their primary qualification, and rumour too often their only guide. For information they have to depend upon a vast mass of undigested detail and uncritical narration.

To fulfil at least one portion of their responsibility, the Committee of the Climbers' Club have, therefore, undertaken the publication of a series of Pocket Climbers' Guides, commencing with the mountains of North Wales. They have been glad to avail themselves of the excellent material

placed at their disposal by Mr. J. M. A. Thomson and Mr. A. W. Andrews, in order to be able to open the series with a guide to the precipices of Lliwedd.

The guides are in no way intended to compete with the many delightful volumes which have made literature of the climbing in this region. It is hoped, however, that a small portable guide, which can be consulted on the spot, and which will tell the new-comer what he is in for before he starts a climb, and where he is and what he may expect at any point on his climb, may do something to avert in our own country the calamitous flood of catastrophe which in some neighbouring lands year by year more fatally pursues the achievements of ignorance and thoughtless enterprise.

With this in view, no attempt has been made to grade the climbs in classes in accordance with their supposed difficulty. The mountaineer knows that technical "difficulty" is inextricably interwoven with an entirely distinct element of "danger." The estimate of "difficulty" among climbers varies largely with their physical conformation, just as their capacity to gauge "danger" fluctuates inevitably in accordance with their individual experience. Satisfactory classification, therefore, is impracticable, and its attempt only misleading. The fact alone that such lists are found to encourage competitive climbing would be sufficient reason for their omission.

It is hoped that a better substitute has been found in the

short summaries that precede each climb. By learning in a few words the character of the holds and belays, the suitability of the rock under different weather conditions, and the length of rope required for security at the highest pitch, any climber who is fit to lead at all will get a far clearer idea of the standard of a climb than if he were to find it next in the list to some other ascent, which may happen to have impressed the list compiler with somewhat similar sensations of nerve and tissue wear.

It is, perhaps, superfluous to add that a guide to Lliwedd is primarily intended for experienced climbers. Lliwedd is a climbers' Mecca, and Mecca has an evil way with strangers to its language and customs. If there are those who, in spite of all warning, choose to toss for crowns with Lliwedd before they have practised knuckle-bones on Tryfan, the guide, it is hoped, will at least deprive them of the possibility of an after-plea of unavoidable ignorance.

The accounts may be read with the certainty that there is no exaggeration of the difficulties. Mr. Thomson writes with unequalled knowledge of the district. On the large majority of the ascents described either he himself or Mr. Andrews has been the pioneer. Their descriptions have been, as far as is possible, standardized. The climbing equation of the authors may be discovered by those who remark the situations that are considered most

favourable for enjoying a view, and the recommendation that the ascent of the Slanting Gully Slab should be included in the great Girdle Traverse as a pleasing upward variant which it would be ungracious to circumvent.

It is intended that the next volume of the series shall be a guide to the Glydyrs and Tryfan, with some outlying and unrecorded climbs.

R. W. L.  
C. M. M.  
R. A. R.  
G. W. Y.

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## EXPLANATION OF TECHNICAL TERMS

**Right** and **Left** refer to one ascending the face.

**A Shelf** seats comfortably three or more climbers.

**A Ledge** without qualification denotes a halting-place for two.

**Glacis** is applied to a slope of rock less steep than a wall and easy of ascent.

**Vertical** is not used as a synonym for steep, but describes rocks actually or apparently at an angle of 90 degrees.

**Overhanging** is not used as a synonym for vertical, but describes rocks actually or apparently impending.

**Angles** of inclination have in most cases been measured with a clinometer.

**Heights** of physical features are approximations based on the readings of an aneroid.

**Distances** on climbs are calculated either from the readings of an aneroid or from the length of rope used.

**Belay** connotes any projection of rock round which the rope can be hitched and held.

The term **Summit** includes the ridge as well as its culminating points.



# THE CLIMBS ON LLIWEDD

## INTRODUCTION

### PART I

LLIWEDD is 2,947 feet in height, and the north face, which provides the climbing, is approximately 1,000 feet from base to summit. It is divided into four parts by three well-marked gullies: the East Gully, between the Far East Buttress and East Peak; the Central Gully, between the East and West Peaks; and the Slanting Gully, separating the West Peak from the Slanting Buttress.

The mountain is mainly composed of hard felstone, geologically defined as rocks too compact in structure to allow crystalline conditions and constitution to be readily distinguished. On the east side of the Far East Buttress the felstone gives place to volcanic ash; consequently, denudation has there been extraordinarily active. Scree, representing the waste of the rocks, are piled up to a high level against the base of the crags, which are broken into wide grass-covered terraces. The rock is friable, particularly in the neighbourhood of the Little Gully. The upper

part of this buttress is partly felstone and partly volcanic ash, in some places consolidated into a rock almost as hard as the felstone. There is, therefore, sound climbing on this part of the cliff, especially on its west side.

The upper portions of the East and Central Gullies widen into theatres, with water-channels in the centre. It is interesting to compare the slopes beside them. In both cases the west side is broken into ledges, with a plentiful supply of grass, while the east side is steeper, and holds hardly any vegetation. The growth of vegetation is due to the fact that the drainage flows down into both gullies from the west, but the cause of the structure that has determined that course is not clear.

The main joints which determine the drainage dip downwards at an average angle of 45 degrees from west to east. The larger shelves, except the terrace on the East Peak, which must have a different origin, slope upwards from east to west, and this direction is generally maintained on all parts of the mountain.

On the East Peak green shelves are almost confined to this circumscribed area; on the West Peak they are both more numerous and more widely distributed. On some routes, however, they do not occur, and on others form convenient resting-places, without interfering with the good climbing on the crags that connect them. The widespread notion that an ascent necessitates scrambling up green inclines merely attests the popularity of two routes near

the Central Gully which converge on the most grassy part of the cliffs.

The thriving condition of this vegetation is due to the fact that it is fed by a more constant supply of water than the rain that falls on the surface of the cliff, converting at times its chimneys and gullies into foaming waterfalls. The ridge of Lliwedd, owing to its exposed situation, receives a heavy rainfall. Little of this drains into Cwm y Llan; nearly all percolates through the mountain on to the north face, and encourages the growth of grass and heather on the shelves and wider ledges.

The furrows which form the cracks and chimneys are the result of cleavage, due to the immense pressure caused by thick deposits of stratified rock, the whole of which has since been removed. All the rocks were disturbed together, much faulted, and thrown into folds. The consolidation of the felstone was also assisted by the additional weight of material above, due to the fact that these rocks were at the bottom of a syncline. Only the central core is left exposed, and that has also been subject to the weathering action of frost through long periods of time. Such action was probably still more energetic in the glacial epoch, when a great glacier filled the valley almost to the foot of the present cliffs. The main structure was, however, determined by causes which operated at a much earlier date.

Special care should be taken to test all holds in or near

the cracks and chimneys, as loose stones are most likely to occur along these lines of weakness. In other places, especially on slabs, the holds are generally firm and reliable. In this connection a word may be said about quartz. There are numerous ledges composed of this material. Though very hard, it is often treacherous, especially in places where the quartz meets the rock. These quartz veins are subsequent infiltrations. They were probably deposited from solution in hot water rising from below. The material weathers differently to the felstone, and it is often difficult to tell by touch alone whether a hold is to be trusted or not.

The East Peak, between the East and Central Gullies, is very steep for about 300 or 400 feet. Though there are four climbs on the east portion—that is, to the east of a line taken vertically down from the Terminal Arête—only two lines are well marked by Nature. These are the Horned Crag and the Central Routes. The Horned Crag utilizes a line of broken rock allowing passage over a very steep wall by means of chimneys and shelves. Near the lower part of this route, on the side of the East Gully, there are traces of volcanic ash, which accounts for the looseness of that part of the cliff which faces the bottom of the East Gully.

The Central Route makes use of a line of shallow chimneys to the west. This groove can be traced up the face beyond the Gorphwysfa until it is lost on the upper eastern slope. It is the only continuous break in a line of

formidable slabs which extend from the Horned Crag Route to the Central Gully.

The Avalanche Route and the Central Chimney use chimneys and cracks to a very slight degree, and pass mainly over steep slabs with small holds.

The upper portion of this part of the East Peak, above the level of the Gorphwysfa, contains four well-marked ridges—the Horned Crag itself, the Black Arête, the Yellow Rib, and the Terminal Arête—which afford excellent climbs. Of these, the first three converge on the last.

To the west of the Terminal Arête a broad shelf, the Terrace, leads downwards to the west from the Quartz Nose as far as the Shallow Gully, and from that point it broadens into a moderately inclined face of broken rock as far as the Bowling Green, where the rocks again steepen to the Quartz Shelf of the Central Gully. Much loose débris is found on this band, especially on its lower portion.

Above this Terrace, between the Terminal Arête and the Central Gully, the wall is extraordinarily steep nearly to the summit, and is only broken by one well-marked shelf, the Gallery. One route, the Red Wall Climb, exists up it.

To the west of the Shallow Gully, which is more or less marked from the scree to the summit, ridges and chimneys provide excellent climbing—the continuation of Route II., the Central Gully and East Peak Routes, the Great Chimney and its west wall.

The lower part of the East Peak is very steep below the

Terrace, with the exception of a peculiar fan-shaped slope on the eastern side, called the Roof. Chimneys and traverses, however, render two routes possible—the Roof Route and Route II.; and another climb ascends cracks to the east of the Shallow Gully, eventually joining this at a higher point. The two first of these climbs converge at the foot of a remarkable slab, after which they diverge, one taking the Roof on the left and the other very steep chimneys to the level of the Terrace.

The West Peak is differently constructed to the East. In its lower part a well-marked shelf, the Bilberry Terrace, slants upward for some considerable distance across the peak. It is comparable to the shelf which might have been produced on the East Peak if the Heather Shelf and the Birch-Tree Terrace had been joined and continued to the Bowling Green. Immediately above the Bilberry Terrace the rocks "give" near its eastern and western ends. On the east are three routes—the Primitive Route, the Direct Route, and Craig yr Aderyn. These two latter climbs continue to be interesting in their upper portions, where the broken east slope of the West Peak, which faces the Central Gully, gives place to steep ridges and faces.

Towards its west end the Bilberry Terrace is crossed by the Rocker Route, one of the finest climbs on the mountain. The terrace ends at the Pinnacle Corner, about half-way up the peak. An extremely steep wall, marked by over-hanging rocks, intervenes between this point and the

scree. On this lies the Elliptical Route, a climb of great difficulty.

To the west of these the Bracket Gully pursues its devious and shallow course upwards, and the Crack and Slanting Wall and the Slanting Gully and Slanting Wall Routes afford good climbing upon steep but firm rocks.

Ramsay, in his "Ancient Glaciers of North Wales," 1860, has left us a delightful appreciation of the scenery of Lliwedd :

"Approaching Llyn Llydaw, the full grandeur of this wonderful valley bursts on the beholder. A lake rather more than a mile in length, and of a green colour, like some of the lakes of Switzerland, obliquely crosses the valley. Around it rise the cliffs of Lliwedd, Crib Goch, and Pen-y-Wyddfa, seamed with veins of white quartz that gleam like streaks of snow on the tall black rocks circling the vast amphitheatre, the scarred sides and rugged outlines of which, sharply defined against the sky, may well seem, till attempted, hopelessly inaccessible to the unpractised climber.

"In every season and phase of weather there is a charm in this valley to a lover of the mountains. In quiet sunshine, when the rocks and perhaps a lazy ferry-boat are reflected on the still water; or while the wanderer scales the crags amid seething mists; or when the pitiless rain, or hail, or snow comes driving down the valley; but best of all on a threatening evening, when the gathered clouds,

like the roof of a vast cavern, hang heavily from side to side on the edge of the hills, and a streak of light, caught from the setting sun, shows redly behind the dim peak of Snowdon, grimly reflected in the sombre waters of the lake."

The scene is no less beautiful to-day, in spite of the indignities which the lake has suffered.

A short walk along its banks, and an ascent of the scree which lie at the foot of the grim walls of Lliwedd, carry us to a world which has caught no note of modern storm and stress.

Grand as the cliffs are in days of clear weather, or those rare moments of morning glory when "the Hunter of the East has caught the crags of Lliwedd in a noose of light," they are finer still when a half-drawn curtain of mist hides the mountain's secrets, revealing from time to time, as it lifts or sways with a passing breath of wind, some well-known landmark on the face.

One of the principal charms of Lliwedd lies in the intricacy of its precipices. A climb on it is to nearly all a venture into the unknown, where "mountaineering" is as essential as the power of ascending difficult rocks. Its problems are those of the great rock peaks of the Alps, and to attack them safely practice in descent is equally indispensable, for those who are unfamiliar with the mountain may well find that prudence sometimes counsels a retreat, either owing to unfavourable conditions or to failure to

hit off the right method of tackling some difficult pitch. Obviously, less experienced climbers will attempt the easier climbs first, but an emphatic warning must be given to novices that steadiness is essential on all the routes of Lliwedd, easy and difficult alike, owing to the exposed character of the climbing.

As a school for mountaineers Lliwedd is unrivalled. There are chimneys which in the Dolomites would certainly command a special tariff. The Great Chimney (330 feet), for instance, is comparable to that on the east wall of the Rosengarten (390 feet), which it closely resembles in character and interest. Difficult cracks abound, such as those on the Far East Buttress or on the Shallow Gully Climb, and many others less uncompromising provide as good sport as anything of the kind in the Alps. A marked feature of Lliwedd is the variety of traverses, with good though small footholds and indifferent handholds. That leading to the Great Chimney (about 130 feet) is the most notable example. It is narrower and has less handhold than that on the Kleine Zinne, and requires at least as much care.

It has often been said that ridge-climbing is rather wanting in North Wales. On Lliwedd there is enough to satisfy the most critical ridge-wanderer if he has no objection to his ridges being tilted at a somewhat high angle. The Black Arête, the Yellow Rib, the Terminal Arête, Craig yr Aderyn, the Rocker Arête, the Slanting Ridge,

and the Needle Traverse Climb are fine examples. Most noticeable of all, however, is the climbing on faces and slabs. They are frequently abnormally steep, but Nature provides compensations. The holds, though small, can be trusted, so that the climber who has a taste for slabs can indulge it to his heart's content with perfect safety. Among the climbs of which a slab forms a prominent feature the Slanting Gully and Route II. may be mentioned, while the Avalanche Route and the Central Chimney Route are almost entirely on a succession of slabs.

Comparisons between the climbs in the British Isles and those on the Alps are misleading, owing to the fact that the weather conditions change more rapidly among the great peaks, and that the difficult passages are taken after much hard work ; but it is safe to say that few high mountains would be ascended which involved 300 to 400 feet of climbing as continuously difficult as that met with upon some of the routes on Lliwedd. On the traverse of the Meije, for example, there is no passage of 25 feet as severe as anything on 300 feet of the Central Chimney Route.

An ingenious and indefatigable rock-climber could doubtless find on Lliwedd a parallel to all the famous rock passages on the Alps.

A. W. A.

## PART II

Lliwedd is merely mentioned by Bingley in 1798 as a buttress of Snowdon towards Nant Hwynan, having on its north side "awfully rude scenery." The mountain, however, is old in story. Tradition places the tomb of King Arthur on Bwlch y Saethau, the main gap in the ridge leading to Y Wyddfa. Carnedd Arthur, a heap of stones formerly marking the spot, has now vanished, but was seen by a Welsh antiquary as late as 1850. After the ceremony of burial King Arthur's men ascended the ridge of Lliwedd, and went down thence into a vast cave called Ogof Lanciau Eryri—the cave of the youth of Snowdonia—to sleep therein till the second coming of the king.

Another legend relates how a shepherd in quest of a lost sheep reached "a ledge leading to the cave," and while he was "squeezing in" rang a hanging bell. The warriors woke and shouted, but the shepherd retreated, and never recovered from the shock to the day of his death. The cave is in the Slanting Gully, and the descriptive details point to an element of truth in the shepherd's tale.

The advent of the climber extended the reputation of Lliwedd as the *mons fabulosissimus* of Wales. Within memory its cliffs were viewed with the same superstitious dread as the Matterhorn inspired in its first assailants. Ascents were rarely made, and were looked upon as heroic adventures fraught with grave possibilities. A halo of

sanctity peculiar to the mountain protected its cliffs for many a year after the first breaches had been effected, and has, in fact, only recently been dissipated by extensive exploration.

The first ascent of the West Peak was achieved by A. H. Stocker and T. W. Wall in 1883, and the former made another ascent with A. G. Parker in the following year. The chief features of this climb are described below under the title of the "Primitive Route." The line taken on the first occasion is hard to identify throughout, for on no route is it now necessary to descend "40 feet on a rope thrown over a pinnacle," nor on any are "the real difficulties confined to the lowest 200 feet." It is, however, certain that the Bilberry Terrace Route includes a considerable part of the original climb.

In 1887 O. Eckenstein and T. V. Scully discovered the now popular Central Gully and West Peak Route. It was forthwith confused with the climb of 1884, so that the belief in the existence of only two feasible routes remained undisturbed. Ascents were repeated at intervals, but seven years elapsed before any fresh discovery was recorded.

By that time the prevalent idea that the cliff was unassailable except by the lines specified had been greatly strengthened by this period of inactivity. In this connexion it is worthy of remark that the Badminton Book has refused consistently to admit the existence of any other ascent, and, in spite of the thirty climbs up Lliwedd,

continues to this day to disseminate the ancient two-route fiction.

Among the climbers less open to influence by tradition was O. Eckenstein, an ardent explorer, to whose experience and judgment was mainly due the first ascent of the East Gully in 1896.

The "Book of Chronicles" at Pen-y-Gwryd shows that the Slanting Gully had already been tried. Strange to say, wintry conditions were then supposed to favour the chances of the climber. The first attempts failed, but the gully was exploited by A. and G. Abraham in 1897, and still retains something of its former fame. On our mountains the gully was sought first as the most likely line of vulnerability, but eventually a climb of this type acquired a peculiar prestige, and took higher rank than one of any other description. It is a relevant fact of curious interest that the South Gully of Tryfān was frequented for seven years before the adjacent buttresses were climbed in 1894. Similarly, the East and the Slanting Gullies of Lliwedd, though rarely visited, became widely known as possible climbs, while some other ascents of the period, including the Elliptical Route—the hardest of all—have remained hitherto wrapped in obscurity.

The practicability of the East Peak was mentally measured immediately after the conquest of the West. It is an oral tradition that assaults of a tentative kind were made upon its walls. The fortress, however, held out for

twenty years, and gained in that time a firmly established reputation for inviolability. In 1903 a chance view from Crib Goch, with the ledges thrown out by patches of snow, suggested the possibility of ascent. The line then noted as the most promising was found blocked by watery ice in the lowest chimney, but an unpremeditated attack near the centre, begun as an afterthought, resulted in the discovery of Route I. Easter snow, while not affecting the greater part of the climb, penetrates, as it melts, into several of the lower furrows, and renders one of them so awkward a problem that, in the deliberate opinion of the writer, the climb is best avoided unless the conditions are wholly favourable.

Owing to the curtains of rock that screened the view on either side, no idea was gained of the general character of the face until a second breach, Route II., was made in the following year. With the subsequent discovery of Route III., now called after the Horned Crag, the sacrosanctity of the East Peak became a memory. The veil of mystery that had so long encircled its crags was lifted, and additional scope for difficult climbing was disclosed to the observant eye of the expert. Other pioneers—A. W. Andrews and J. B. Farmer, H. V. Reade, W. R. Reade and G. W. Young—joined in the fascinating task of further exploration. The Roof Route and the Shallow Gully were added, while the singular exit from the Central Gully not only gave access to its middle section, but opened a way up the

extreme west flank of the mountain. Soon afterwards this exit provided a long-desired approach to a deep curving cleft discernible from the *buncyns* of Llydaw. The merits of this climb are reflected in the name of the Great Chimney. By diverging from these lines along incipient ledges a few alternatives, of which the Black Arête is the longest, were sought and found. Doubtless the experience thus acquired by degrees stimulated a taste for climbing slabs so exposed and steeply inclined that during the gully epoch the idea of their ascent would have been dismissed as a patent absurdity. This distinctive feature of the climbing on the East Peak attains unique prominence on the Avalanche and Central Chimney Routes.

Exploration, in which both A. E. Elias and E. S. Reynolds have greatly assisted, has proceeded simultaneously on other parts of Lliwedd. The Slanting and the Far East Buttresses have yielded between them three routes, each excellent of its kind. Discoveries on the West Peak have revealed its unequalled capacity for satisfying divers tastes. The climber whose prejudice runs in favour of grass will find it most lush on the upper part of the east flank. It is inconceivable that anyone with a preference for heather will be disappointed by the ascent from the Bilberry Terrace to the Pinnacle Corner. On the Craig yr Aderyn Route hard passages can be punctuated with periods of cushioned ease. Any specialist with a fancy for balancing on small holds in airy places can, with caution, obtain on

the pitch of the Red Chimney a foretaste of the delicacies that await him on the Red Wall. The fastidious climber in quest of a route without vestige of vegetation can go up the Slanting Wall or the Bracket Gully. The Rocker Route, an epitome of many climbs, should be the choice of those whose zeal is fired by the fray, for its harder half lies on the upper part of the peak.

All the routes named above are intersected in succession by a long climb across the central zone of the whole face. Of its extent and complexity no expedition gives so true a conception as the Girdle Traverse.

Two Cambrian cliffs, Craig yr Ysfa and the Ysgolion Duon, are almost as fine as Lliwedd to look at, but neither is nearly so fine to look from. In regard to views, the West has this advantage over the East Peak, that the East is seen from it. Nevertheless, whatever be the line of ascent, a true mountaineer can rejoice in an environment of boldly sculptured crags, and inhale the influences of rare and beautiful mountain scenery. The qualities of the climbs themselves are not the sole source of their charm: the mystery of the unknown is profoundly felt on Lliwedd, and the element of romance in piercing it is enhanced by the glory and the gloom of the mountain. In this combination lies the secret of its spell and the cause of its cult.

The greater number of these climbs, three-fourths of the total, appear for the first time in a book. Some are new,

and others of earlier date have not been described hitherto; and it may here be explained, as surprise has been publicly expressed at this reticence, that accounts of many climbs in Wales were reserved for inclusion in a work of wider compass—a work for which there is now no need.

To distinguish the climbs and features of the face, descriptive epithets have been used, that no personal names should suggest a lien on Nature's freehold. Although many of the ascents have not yet been repeated, the summaries preceding each account should give an approximately accurate idea of relative difficulty. To accomplish the harder ascents knowledge of mountains, obtainable on easier climbs, is needed more than athletic ability.

A few well-guarded secrets remain to be wrested. Two forms of pioneering, a genuine and a debased, are equally possible on our mountains. The higher form postulates experience of rocks and skill in the art of descent; the lower involves experiments with ropes and reliance on retentiveness of memory. The subtle charm of true exploration will be felt by adherence to the sound traditions of climbing on Lliwedd.

The object of this little book is to enable many to participate in pleasures known to few. If this end be attained, the time spent upon it will not have been spent in vain.

J. M. A. T.

## SECTION I

### THE FAR EAST BUTTRESS

Exceedingly difficult. With water or ice in the crack, it should not be attempted. A long crack and two awkward strides in exposed situations. On all essential parts the rock is sound and good. For two climbers. Leader needs 80 feet of rope.

THIS buttress remained longest a virgin—not, however, on account of its unyielding nature, for that was unsuspected, but because it suffered from its proximity to the higher peaks. The rare qualities it possesses were discovered accidentally by a party who left the East Gully in quest of something shorter and more suitable for a “first day.”

The main feature of the climb is the ascent of a long, straight chimney which begins to cut deeply into the face at the level of a little terrace plainly visible from below. The latter is attainable either from the scree by way of a shallow prototype of the chimney, or, with greater convenience, by breaking out of the East Gully. From the terrace we ascend easily at first, dodging the grass in the

bed by excursions on the right wall. When, however, the gradient becomes formidable, seclusion is sought in the chimney, which steepens and finally narrows down to a vertical fissure. It has been stated that good holds exist, but they are none the less undiscoverable when the hands are benumbed by icy water. Then, at any rate, it becomes necessary to improvise new tactics. The width of the chimney permits the climber to lie sideways at full length, and to wedge in the forearm above the head. With this as a lever and anchor it is possible to writhe up one to two feet. Friction, materially increased by inspiration, provides the mainstay, while the arm is moved up. The process is repeated until the third dimension of man precludes all possibility of further progress. One hand now grasps a yellow stone in the fissure; the right leg is brought out of the chimney, and thrust up to a sloping step on the face. A strenuous effort is then needed to overcome the combined forces of friction and gravity and escape from the vice. The spot thus reached is hardly a landing-place—it accommodates one foot only, but the desired rest can be obtained by leaning well back against a projection; in this half-recumbent attitude above and athwart the crack we are in a good position to enjoy the circumambient air, a wide view of the face, and an unobstructed outlook over Cwm Dyli. A small recess opens above, and the climber draws himself into it by gripping with the fingers a spigot of rock unearthed in the floor on the first ascent; but for

this peg, the threshold, though low, would prove an insuperable barrier. Cosily niched in the recess, the leader is at length well placed for gathering in the 70 feet of rope between himself and his companion. The crack now widens; but if the next section of 40 feet is climbed, a divergence to the west must be made subsequently, and reliance placed on turf, whose bearing power will vary in different conditions of weather; it is preferable, therefore, to break out at once on to the east wall. The rope can be well belayed while the first man climbs a curious mantel-shelf, beyond which the ascent is continued unchecked to the level of the head of the chimney. Here several bosses of moss on the right are crossed to a solid and conspicuous pinnacle. On the west side of this a protruding nose hangs heavily over the sheer wall of the East Gully. To effect a lodgment on the former it is necessary to stand on the pinnacle, and stride over the intervening space to a distant ledge two inches wide. Handholds, found by feeling above the head, enable the centre of gravity to be transferred, but the process comes near to a clear swing off on the arms. The rope will be round the pinnacle; still, some element in the difficulty or in the view of the depths below sets a distinct cachet upon this traverse.

In front lies a stretch of excellent rock, succeeded by a bank of grass (cairn, 2,520 feet). The rocks on the upper part of the face slope at a relatively moderate inclination; many are fantastic in shape, and one resembling a long

"cello" merits a visit—in fact, wayside problems abound, but the line of ascent can be continued with little deviation to the summit.

### THE EAST GULLY

Between the East Peak and Far East Buttress; 300 feet of steep climbing. Excellent holds and belays. At top of this section one stiff pitch consisting of the exit from a recess. Leader can be held. Above, the angle diminishes, but there is good climbing for 200 feet more. Has often been taken by a strong party in unsettled weather. Any number up to five. Leader should have 60 feet of rope.

The lowest part of the gully, which corresponds to the gutter and slabs of the Central Gully, is usually occupied by a stream. In such cases it can be entered from the right, or more easily from the left, by following a quartz ledge.

The gully divides above its lowest recess, which corresponds to that of the Central Gully at the traverse level, into two branches. The right hand is a shallow angle with loose grass higher up, which leads away from the gully to the west. The route lies up a narrow crack on the left. This is thoroughly safe, but holds are rather scanty, especially near the bottom. However, facilities for wedging abound, and the small holds are conveniently placed. Above, the crack becomes easier, with good shelves. The

difficult pitch is a recess with a sloping bottom, surmounted by a quartz band. The recess marks the junction of two subordinate cracks. To reach it the left crack should be taken, which is reached by a short traverse. This crack can be climbed by wedging or on its right-hand wall. The first method is the safer. Some jammed stones in the crack may be loose.

The second man should follow the leader into the recess and wedge himself firmly there. There is no belay round which the rope can be secured, but the second man is in a perfectly firm position to hold the leader.

Either wall of the recess can be climbed. If the leader selects the right wall, he commences from the highest point of the recess, and finds one high handhold, on which he relies to draw himself up and out of the recess. If the left wall be selected, he should descend to the lower part of the recess, and find a small handhold on the wall. The obvious shelf in the interior of the recess that can be easily reached by the hand is, or was, occupied by a large loose stone.

At the level of the quartz ledge an easy traverse leads to the bed of the gully. The remainder is comparatively easy, but several chimneys and slabs afford good sport.

Near the top there is a good deal of loose débris. This can be avoided, if desired, by traversing on to the East Peak or the Far East Buttress, but two interesting pitches are thus missed.



*A. E. Elias*

RECOLLECTION OF THE FAR EAST BUTTRESS.



## SECTION II

### THE EAST PEAK

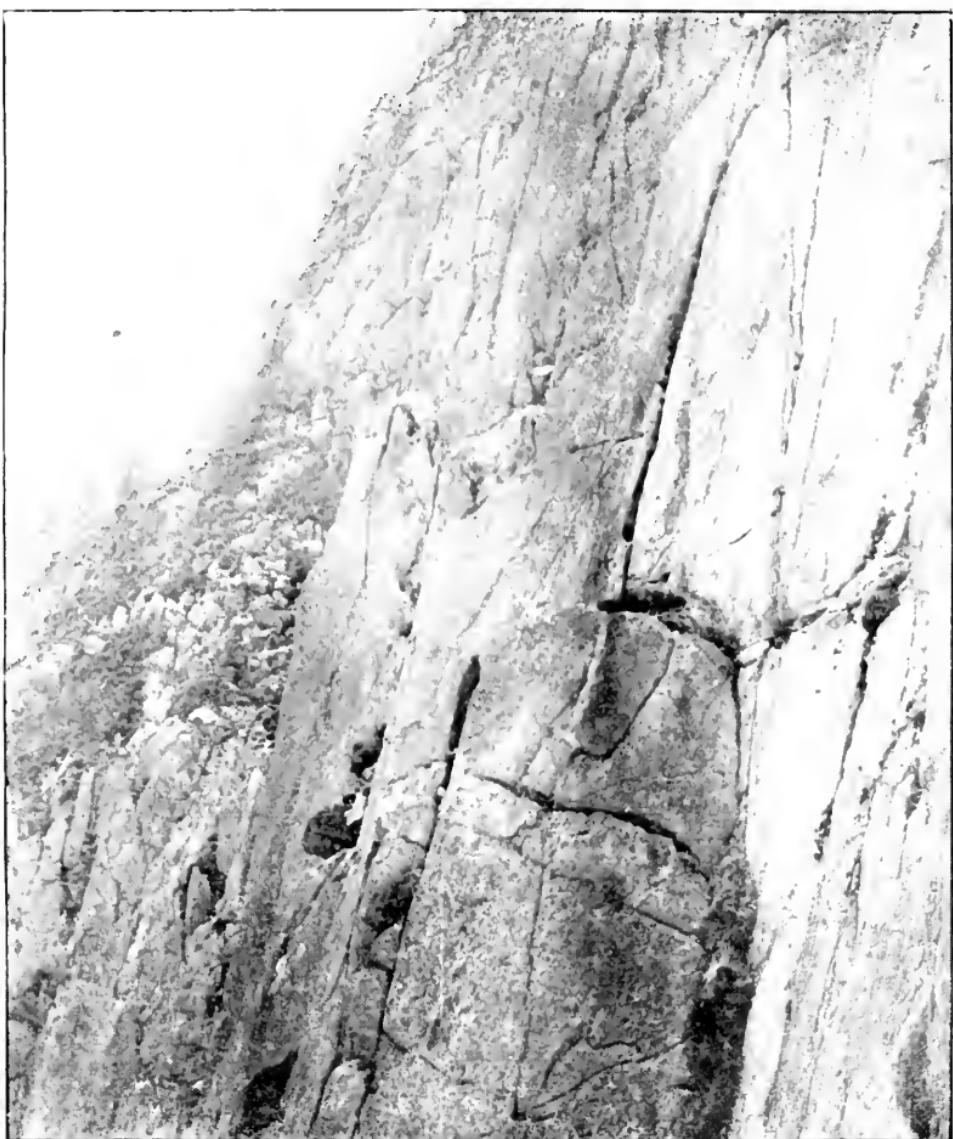
#### THE HORNED CRAG ROUTE (OR ROUTE III.)

Between the Central Route and East Gully. Suitable for any number up to five, at intervals of about 50 feet. There are two exposed traverses on firm rock and one grassy chimney of 40 feet, where special care is needed.

HIGHER than the Heather Shelf and to the east of it is a green ledge, 110 feet from the scree. It can be reached by a laborious scramble up a curving chimney. A better route on clean rock is given by a groove in the slabs, which passes close to the Heather Shelf, and is joined by a line of good holds leading up to the ledge. (Belay round a leaning block.) The leader now crosses the foot of a lofty recess which rises from the ledge, and traverses obliquely upwards, finally reaching a small rock stance on the brink of the East Gully. The point may be attained from the gully itself, but the variant is not recommended: the rock is unsound and the slope dangerous in wet weather. When the second man has come to the stance, the leader ascends

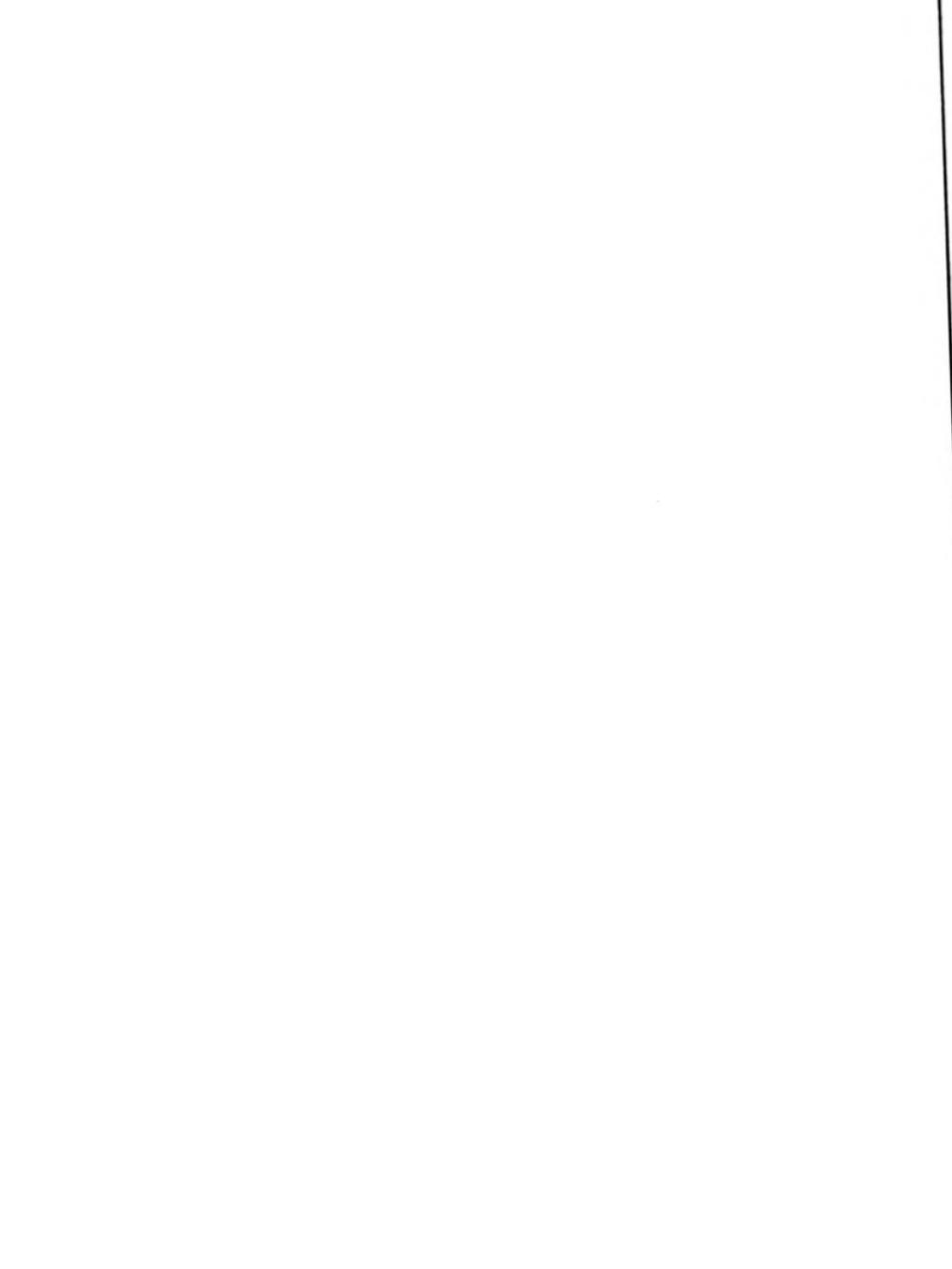
the first chimney on his left. This is steep and partly choked with heather. Rock holds are scarce. With a westward curve it leads to the Potentilla Shelf, where a large party can assemble. From here the ascent is continued either by embracing luxuriant heather on the left or by way of a rock ridge on the right. Both continue for 70 or 80 feet (the Potentilla Rib has good halting-places), and terminate on the sheltered Stack Shelf (2,360 feet). A shallow chasm of formidable aspect lies above. The leader scales the left wall to the level of an upward-sloping ledge, and, when joined by the second man, traverses across the bed to the west wall. He must then effect a cautious exit up and round a vertical corner streaked with quartz. The holds are good, but inconveniently placed ; he should hitch his rope over a projection before tackling the final difficulty. An easy slope of rock leads to the Horned Crag. Its lower slab is climbed with the fingers in a diagonal crack ; a short chimney connects this with a small green saddle. With careful attention to balance, a knight's move can be made on the upper slab, and the gap between the "horns" reached. A less sensational alternative is to traverse from the saddle a few feet to the west, where a good chimney gives access to the top of the higher horn (2,520 feet).

The ascent is continued in the same line upon a subsidiary arête. A few tempting but treacherous holds still remain. At an altitude of 2,600 feet the angle diminishes, and broken rocks lead to the summit.



THE HORNED CRAG.

*A. W. Andrews*



## THE STACK SHELF AND BLACK ARÈTE CLIMB.

A long rock traverse and an arête. Any number up to five.  
Leader with 60 feet of rope can secure a party.

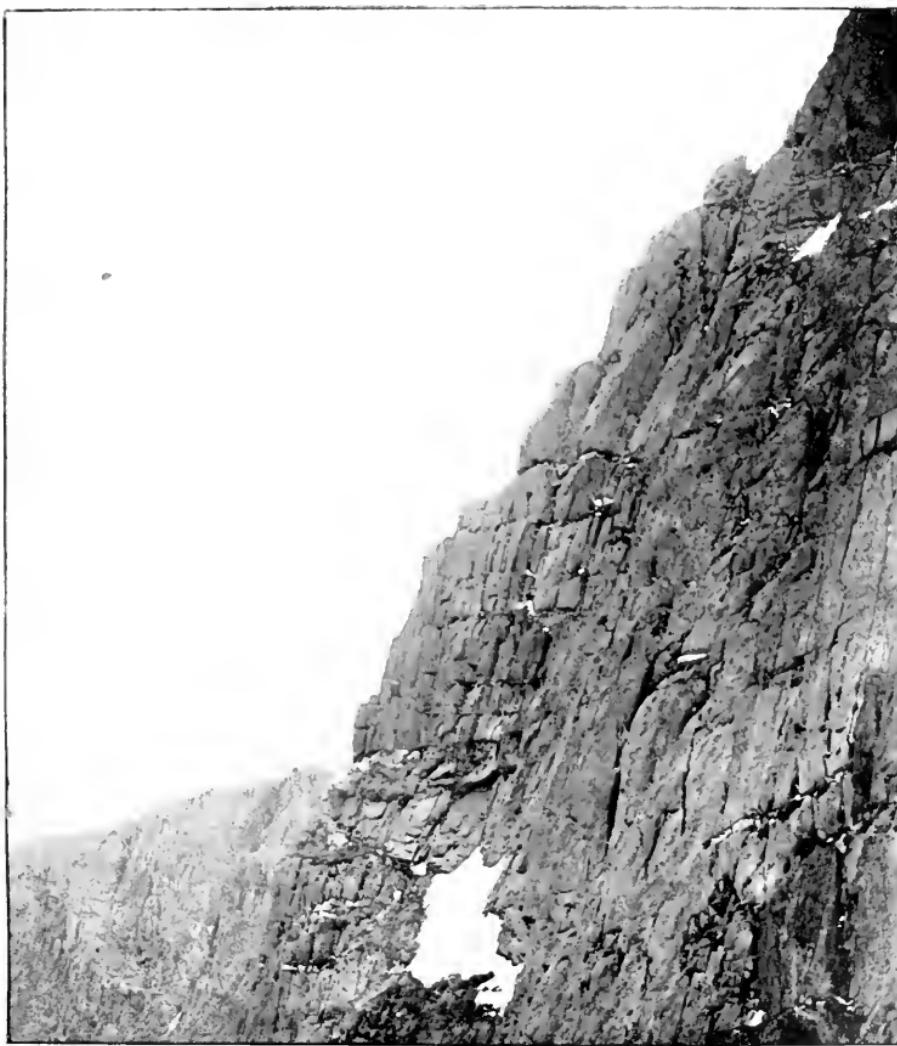
The Potentilla Rib, mentioned in the previous account, affords a fine view of the unyielding slabs that flank the lower part of the Horned Crag Route. Rising from the scree without a break for more than 300 feet, they can be crossed at one point only—at the level of the Stack Shelf. By diverging here a separate ascent is made to the summit in a line parallel with the upper part of the Horned Crag Route. It is a climb of equal interest and merit. In the absence of a well-defined ledge, a somewhat breezy crossing of these exposed slabs is effected by following the line of the largest holds for 60 feet. The peculiarity of this traverse is that a short but nearly vertical chimney occurs half-way. A few yards west of its top a narrow rift in the rock provides a secure and charming resting-place. At the actual finish special care is needed, for the holds are small, and a change of foot is necessary in order to alight on the heather-crowned summit of a projecting rib (cairn, 2,390 feet). Turning now to face the mountain, we go up an easy grey wall inclined at an average angle, and reach the foot of the steep Black Arête. Excellent climbing is found on its thin edge streaked with white quartz, and we relinquish it with regret at its termination near the Quartz

Nose. A chimney 35 feet in height, and displaying the same contrast of colour, enables us to proceed in practically the same line. This last obstacle gives access to the stretch of broken rocks that extends to the summit of the peak.

#### THE YELLOW RIB CONNEXION BETWEEN THE STACK SHELF AND THE CENTRAL ROUTE

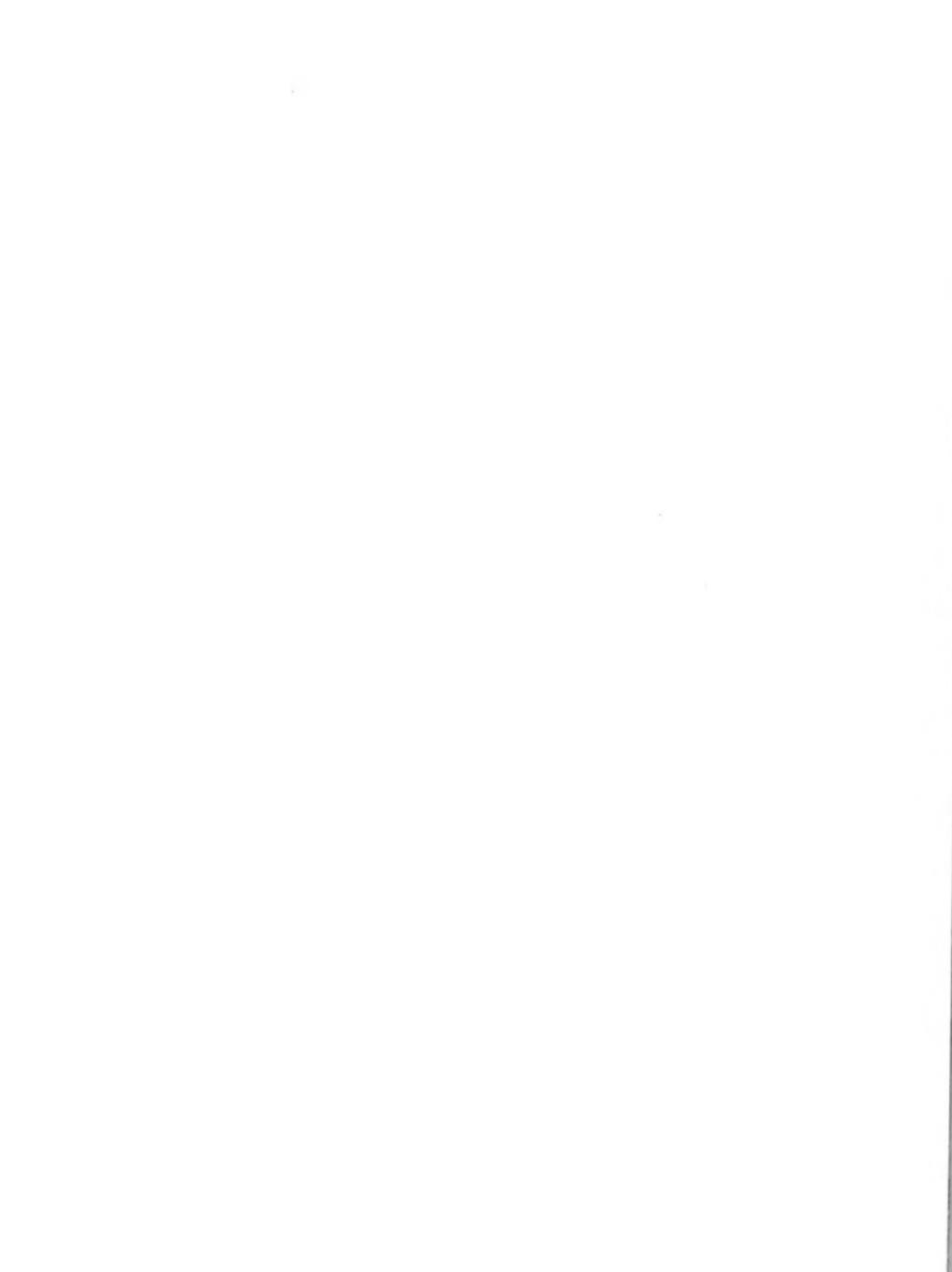
An interesting variant. No retarding obstacles, but steadiness needed on a descending ledge. Leader requires 60 feet of rope. This ascent from the Stack Shelf to the summit is harder than by the Horned Crag Route.

From the cairn at the end of the traverse mentioned in the preceding account a narrow ledge, running westward, drops gently down to a slope of rocks interspersed with heather. After a few minutes' scrambling, a wide and shallow depression in the face is reached on the east side of the Gorphwysfa Shelf. In the centre of this depression a steep yellow rib rises for 100 feet approximately. Though generally smooth, small holds of perfect quality are found on its edge. By means of them we climb up to a little grassy bay romantically situated among the crags (cairn). Escaping on the west side, and rounding an abrupt corner, we encounter with surprising suddenness the Leaning Sentinel on the Central Route, and complete the ascent thereby.



THE TERMINAL ARÈTE.

*A. W. Andrews.*



## THE CENTRAL ROUTE (OR ROUTE I.)

Only for a thoroughly expert party. Very steep, with hard chimneys and some exposed situations. Paucity of holds at four places. Stability of one stance should be gauged on each ascent prior to use. Leader needs 80 feet of rope, and, if with one companion, cannot be aided. No friable rock. Most types of climbing.

On the essential parts of this ascent the mountain imposes on the credulity of the optimistic climber. His view ahead is limited to 40 feet, where he constantly discerns a ledge and expects therefrom a diminution of gradient. The ledge, when attained, is found to lack definition, while the crags continue to rise in front at an equal or greater angle.

The initial stage is soon accomplished. From the scree we clamber up the slabs to the east end of the Heather Shelf. Following this westwards, and rounding a corner, we arrive at the foot of an abnormally steep chimney, where the difficult climbing begins at once. Some 20 feet from its commencement the second man can obtain tolerably good anchorage. The leader then advances, but soon deserts the bed of the chimney, and, by means of small niches, steadily scales the left wall until brought to a stand by a complete lack of holds. At the level of his chin is a small kite-shaped patch of heather. To effect a lodgment

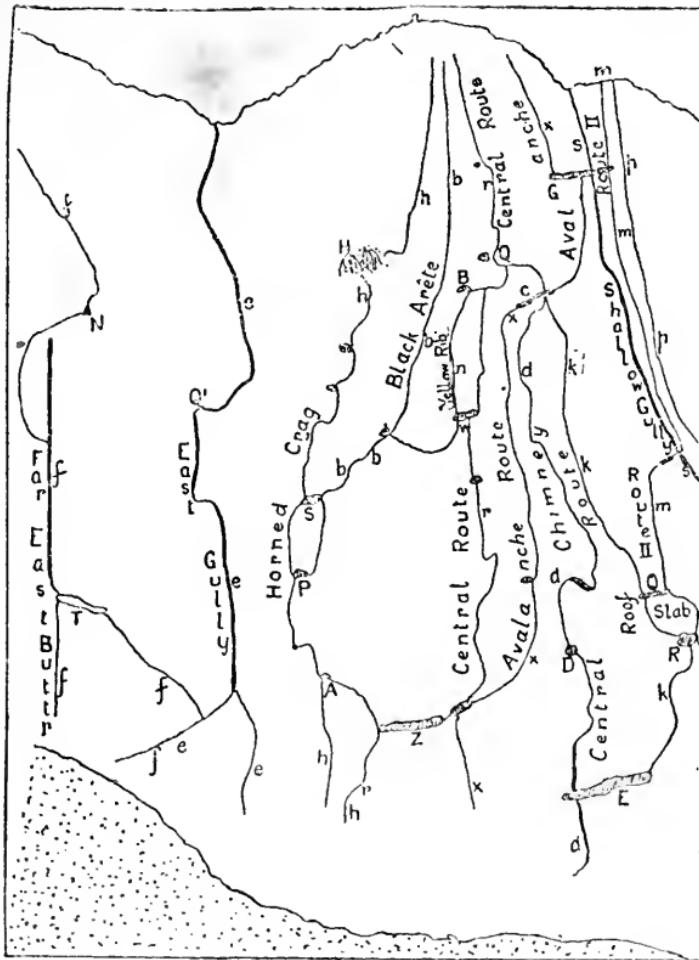
thereon the arms are laid on the ledge, and the weight is raised by them. This is an awkward proceeding, calling for the utmost caution, and the difficulty will be greatly increased if the spot be found, as at the time of the first ascent, spread with a thick layer of rapidly melting snow. He proceeds without a pause to a slightly higher level. A needle now appears on the right. With the rope swung round this as a safeguard, he traverses nearly horizontally back to the head of the chimney he has deserted. The place is exposed and the holds are scanty; in consequence, most careful attention to balance is needed. The tapering needle of rock affords him at once a place of security and an opportunity to release his companion from his cramped position fully 50 feet below. A few yards of grassy slope are ascended, and then an oblique chimney. Care must be taken not to lay too heavy a hand upon the treacherous blocks that encumber its exit. We continue therefrom up the sharp edge of a thin rib on the right until it terminates with uncommon abruptness in a nearly vertical wall, where progress in precisely the same line is effectually barred. With the rope belayed round two spikes of rock behind him, the leader can safely descend from the arête and pass eastwards on grass-tufts to the beginning of a sharply-cut chimney. This provides an escape from the apparent impasse. It is followed by a long steep stretch containing yet another well-defined chimney, which brings us ultimately to a welcome halting-place beneath the hardest



A. W. Andrees

THE EAST PEAK AND PART OF THE FAR EAST BUTTRESS.





#### THE EAST PEAK AND PART OF THE FAR EAST BUTTRESS.

A, A ledge ; B, Bay ; C, Cairn Traverse ; D, Summer-house ; E, Birch-Tree Terrace ; G, The Gallery ; H, Horned Crag ; N, Pinnacle ; P, Potentilla Shelf ; Q, Quartz Nose ; Q', Quartz Ledge ; R, Recess ; S, Stack Shelf ; T, Terraec ; W, Gorphwysfa ; Z, Heather Shelf.

b, Black Arête Climb ; d, d, Central Chimney ; e, e, East Gully ; f, f, Far East Buttress Climb ; h, h, Horned Crag Route ; n, Yellow Rib Connexion ; r, r, Central Route ; x, x, Avalanche Route ; k, k, Roof Route ; m, m, Route II. ; s, s, Shallow Gully ; p, p, Central Gully and East Peak Route.

pitch of the climb. The second man makes good his position on the small green ledge, while the leader disappears into a curious and almost vertical recess above, suggestive of the inside corner of a box. After reaching an outward-shelving stance therein, and finding the holds beyond inadequate, he must perforce writhe up a few feet, and rely mainly on friction for support until his left hand can grasp a small projection; with the aid it affords and a strenuous effort, he emerges breathless from the struggle on a relatively spacious bank of heather. This is at least two yards broad, and the first "Gorphywysfa" met with since the difficult climbing began (2,440 feet). The shelf is dominated by a singular wall, smooth and sheer, but scored by several well-chiselled furrows. One of these, a few yards to the right of the landing-place, is climbable for the greater part of its height, and when the holds cease altogether a bold stride is made to the right, across an intervening rib, into a parallel furrow, whereby the ascent of the wall is completed. Access is thus obtained to the Cairn Traverse, where two stone men stand to commemorate the first ascents of Route I. and of Route II.

It may be useful to add that the second party on the climb contrived to circumvent the Vertical Recess by breaking away to the left and ascending a slope of rocks and heather; and likewise to avoid the wall above the Gorphywysfa by traversing west to an easy chimney, marked by a small cairn. In view of the extreme difficulty of the

two pitches, these lateral deviations are well worthy of note, for they materially diminish the severity of the ascent.

The Cairn Traverse is easily followed to the Terrace, which slopes upwards to the Quartz Nose (2,520 feet), and this longer way round is, in point of time, the shorter way up. The deviation is optional. It is more interesting to keep to the same line, and climb the wall that holds the Traverse. The rock is excellent. A leaning sentinel is reached; this gives the second man a secure position, while the leader, who bears a little to the right, uses very small holds of perfect quality to scale the last and nearly vertical 18 feet to a small green ledge. This is connected subsequently with the Quartz Nose by a steep and obvious chimney.

The ascent concludes with an exhilarating scramble up the ridge which falls from the summit to this level (2,510 feet). The climbing on the Terminal Arête is quite interesting on the crest and the west side.

The climbing time of the two first explorers was three hours; that of the second party, containing three men, six hours. It follows that a party of four might need twelve hours. In any case, the ascent is wholly unsuitable for a large number.

## AVALANCHE ROUTE

The most exposed climb in England and Wales. Exceedingly difficult but delectable in good weather, indefensible in bad. Best number, two. Ninety feet of rope required. Good balance essential. No aid and little protection can be given to the leader. Only for a thoroughly expert party. Steepness. Absence of grass and gravel. Excellence of rock. Exiguity of holds. Long distance between belays. A succession of breezy situations.

RED WALL CONTINUATION.—More exposed than wall of Devil's Kitchen, but safer in so far as the rock is perfectly sound. Ninety foot interval. Leader ascends 70 to 80 feet alone. No prodigious feats of strength, but constant muscular tension. One fancy foothold of limited utility. An operation of exceptional delicacy.

The route lies for the most part on the slabs in the centre of the peak. They are so bare and sound that the pure pleasure of rock-climbing is nowhere interrupted.

The climb is begun in a deep chimney, which cuts the wall beneath the west extremity of the Heather Shelf, and nearly connects the latter with the scree. Herein one obstruction is met, and the climber is forced out for a moment on to the left wall. The chimney, fully 70 feet in height, is steep throughout, but two solid spikes give the leader the option of belaying himself or of summoning his companion.

From the exit we bear a few yards to the west, either

upon or close to the Heather Shelf. Here we are brought to a halt by a massive rib, which retains at a slightly higher level the first difficult chimney on Route I. When the second man has established himself to his liking, the leader climbs over the abrupt corner. The view expected is completely curtained off by a second and subsidiary rib. This rounded, a rudimentary ledge is discernible on the wide expanse of slabs above. The whole distance is about 60 feet, but may seem longer. The climber maintains his equilibrium by grasping the edges of narrow ribs, and finds it expedient to advance with deliberation, "if slow, yet sure, adhesive to the track." A few feet above the ledge is a belaying-knob.

When near this point the leader on the first ascent felt a sudden vibration in the air, and was enveloped in waves of sound resembling the diapason of an organ. A crash followed, and a large rock with a train of satellites was seen bowling down the scree directly below. His shouts elicited no response. It is an instance of the curious acoustics of Lliwedd that, though inaudible even to his companion round the rib, they nevertheless startled a solitary wanderer a mile away on Crib Goch, who reported them in order in the evening.

It was then learnt that a trio of young climbers was approaching the summit at the time, and on the next day they confided to the writer the tangled tale of a block dislodged by accident on the Terminal Arête.

The digression seems necessary, not merely to explain the name of the climb and save the face of the mountain, but in order to prevent the recurrence of such an incident.

Beginning a few yards west of the knob, the leader ascends the slabs by small, firm holds towards a little ledge plainly visible from the starting-point. Owing to foreshortening the distance is likely to be underestimated, and the climber, as he works steadily upwards, begins to speculate whether the smoothness of the rocks above or the limits of the rope behind will be the first to bring him to a standstill. Neither does so. He reaches the goal without drawing on his reserves of strength or the last few feet of a 90-foot rope. On this long stretch the climbing is excellent. The accommodation on the ledge, however, is somewhat scanty ; neither a sitting nor a standing posture gives the requisite security, but trial of the former has revealed the existence of a singularly sharp spike of rock hidden in a tuft of heather. With feet below and arms upon the ledge the climber can play the rope round the pointed spillikin.

Upon the arrival of the second man a move is made along a string-course of quartz, which soon runs into a buttress set with overhanging projections, and presenting a seemingly impassable barrier. The only alternative to retreat is a direct assault upon the rocks above the white vein. They recede but little from the vertical, and the difficulty is accentuated at a point where the climber must

make a stride of abnormal length, and while at full stretch in an exposed position, with one high handhold for a main-stay, lift the weight and swing it across on to the right foot. Above this difficulty, and about 50 feet from the anchorage, he reaches the semblance of a niche (2,380 feet), and seated here on a solitary grass-tuft, with the rope drawn tight round a solid bollard of rock, patiently awaits his companion with the utmost composure of mind.

The place is one of those from which each new-comer must perforce evict the man already established. The appearance of a hat is the signal for the leader to exchange his seat in the eyry for a stance on the belaying-bitt. From this aerial spot the view is unique. We seem to be standing on a vertebra projecting slightly from the backbone of the mountain. An impossible crag rises above, and smooth slabs shelving away on either side show an outline of swelling curves. This romantic environment conveys to the mind an impression of isolation at a great height. The leader steps from the perch to the rocks on the right, and, rounding a corner, encounters a vertically fluted wall. The position thereon is extraordinarily exposed, for 300 feet of sheer slabs are seen below, betraying no trace of ledge or furrow. He works up the wall, stepping in and out of its shallow grooves, and bearing a little to the west. The holds, though sound, are small, and great care is needed to avoid the slightest miscalculation of balance. Within 50 feet of the bollard he chances upon a knob

of rock, which enables him once more to belay the rope. Here he is joined by his companion.

The issue is no longer in doubt. The climb changes in character. At a quickened pace the Gorphwysfa is passed on the left, and the Cairn Traverse is approached, not without a certain feeling of embarrassment at the profusion of good things provided here by Nature for the support of man.

The Traverse leads to the Terrace, whence any one of several routes onwards may be followed at will.

#### THE RED WALL CLIMB

This climb was the outcome of a natural desire that a route of marked characteristics should not lack an independent continuation to the summit. From the Terrace there rises between the Shallow Gully and the Terminal Arête an uncommonly steep wall, marked in places with coppery tints. It is important to begin at the right point, for experience shows that otherwise a long descent may be entailed. Near its west boundary a small ledge can be seen. A plummet dropped therefrom would settle on a spot a few yards to the west of the starting-place. On this part of the wall the formation resembles the surface of a clustered pillar, a succession of rib and furrow. Both are laid under contribution in the course of ascent, for the one supplies niches for the toes, while the balance is preserved by

clutching the other. The higher the climber rises, the lower he finds the relief sink. The holds diminish in consequence, and at the height of 60 feet dwindle down to the minimum limit. On the right the recess of the gully gives a corner to the wall ; round its angle one step can be seen, and the existence of others conjectured. By inserting the left toe into a little nick, and then thrusting the right foot over to the notch, it is just possible to bridge the blank interval. For a moment the climber is standing on tiptoe, spread-eagled on the wall. From two slender fins of rock, pressed between the fingers and thumbs, just sufficient purchase is obtained for the transference of the centre of gravity. This done, a fresh difficulty occurs. A high hold can be caressed by the left hand, but a tentative effort proves the impossibility of setting foot on the next notch. It is a necessity of the situation to pay homage to the mountain and "crook the pregnant hinges of the knee." This method, indiscriminately belauded in books on climbing, is generally hazardous on difficult slabs. Here, however, the freedom of the next movement is not compromised. The expected holds present themselves, and lead up the remaining 12 feet to the ledge (belay).

The leader on the first ascent had put on shoes ; his companion, who relied implicitly on the rope, is confident that the nick cannot be utilized by a boot. The writer defers to the opinion of the more competent judge, and desires to give it special prominence.

“In nugas haec seria ducunt.” The upper half of the wall affords the pleasure of an interlude and access to a curving terrace, now called the Gallery (2,720 feet). Two obvious lines of ascent therefrom are appropriated to the Shallow Gully and to Route II. These lie on the right. At the east extremity is a squarish grey chimney, and parallel therewith an angular red recess. In the former the climbing is excellent, in the latter ideal. Writhing and bridging alternate, and the second man can wedge securely at the foot of a prostrate sentinel, while the leader tackles the vertical finish (cairn, 2,800 feet). Our revels now are ended. We proceed leisurely up easy rocks, and in ten minutes reach the familiar summit, conscious, perhaps, of a deepened respect and affection for the “vast mural steeps of Lliwedd.”

#### THE CENTRAL CHIMNEY ROUTE

**A** stiff chimney. **A** traverse over very steep rocks. **A** steep slab. **A** difficult rib with few holds; 120 feet of rope desirable for upper part. Two or three climbers. **All** holds sound, but rocks continuously steep and very exposed. Unsuitable for cold, wet, or windy weather.

The bottom of the Central Chimney leads to the Birch-Tree Terrace (on Roof Route). All except the leader and second man must wait here till the former has reached the

Summer-House, above the slab. A narrow chimney is climbed for 50 feet. Here the second must belay the leader by means of a small leaf of rock on the left, round which he can hold the rope firmly. The belay is good, but awkward to use, as it lies at the level of a long reach upward on the left. A capable second man is essential, as he will have to maintain himself in a somewhat cramped position, depending largely on handhold, till the leader has reached the slab.

Some faith is required to believe that a traverse exists on the right, as the chimney is bounded by a nearly vertical rib surmounted by overhanging rocks ; but, though fierce in appearance, it allows itself to be conquered with less expenditure of moral and physical energy than might be expected.

The key to the situation is a flat shelf about a foot square, which can be reached with one hand by a man of average length of arm. The leader should stand up in the chimney and stretch out his left arm till he can reach the shelf. There is no good hold for the fingers, but he must wriggle upwards with the flat of his hand on the shelf, making a slight movement to the right and pressing against the rib, till he can find a satisfactory hold for the fingers of the right hand. He must then swing round the rib, and draw himself up to the level of the shelf. Here there is a good stance for the feet, but no good handhold. He must now walk carefully along a small ledge to the right with

excellent foothold, till he finds a recessed hold for the fingers, by means of which he can draw himself on to the slab. The exit from the chimney and the traverse are sensational, but absolutely safe.

The situation now reached is one of the finest on Lliwedd. Below, the slab apparently curves over to the screes, and above, and to right and left, stretches a wall at an angle of over 70 degrees.

However, the ledges are too small—seldom exceeding an inch in breadth—for a prolonged rest or contemplation of the scenery. The slab itself is a delightful climb of 70 feet. Small recessed holds for fingers and toes afford perfect security, though no satisfactory resting-place can be found till a commodious recess is reached which has been called the Summer-House.

Above and to the right the cliff overhangs, and the view is cut off by a bulging curtain of rock. To the left, however, a fine view can be obtained of the east wall of the Central Chimney, which slopes upwards to the east at an angle of about 55 degrees. A prominent landmark is the sickle-shaped quartz vein, with its convex side facing west, which lies near the Avalanche Route.

The Central Chimney itself almost vanishes above the Summer-House, and is useless as a means of upward progress.

The rib, which has as yet only been crossed at the traverse, is the ladder by which we climb. Its aspect

is imposing. Though less steep than the slab (about 65 degrees), it appears singularly deficient in holds, and forms the real difficulty of the climb. It is steeper than the slab on Route II., and more than three times its length. For 25 feet or so there are distinct but small holds, about 5 feet apart. Progress has then to be made for some 15 feet largely by means of friction and minute finger-holds. Above that for 30 feet the climbing is easier, though the holds are still small and far apart, and the situation particularly exposed.

Here there is a comparatively good stance, and we reach the upper grass ledge, about 30 feet below the Roof. It would be possible for the leader to stand here while the second man comes up, but it is advisable to proceed farther. The ledge on which the leader is now standing is the eastern continuation of the ledge under the chimneys of Route II. which lead to the Terrace. The eastern portion is, however, separated from the western by a curtain of rock. As the ledge is small and slopes downwards, a prolonged halt is undesirable. We follow it, slightly descending, to the west till we reach a chimney crowned by a striking pinnacle. The entrance to this requires care, but its ascent is easy, and leads to the sloping Roof mentioned above. The leader should advance another 20 feet till he finds on the left an excellent ledge, where he can sit and belay the party.

The difficulties are now over. About 150 feet of good

scrambling on the sloping Roof, with excellent holds, leads to the Cairn Traverse. Either the roof itself or a chimney on the right may be followed.

### THE ROOF ROUTE

A stiff chimney. A broad traverse. A steep rock-face. A short slab with few holds, but a satisfactory platform below. A steep corner, and an easy finish on the Roof. Two to five climbers. Even wet conditions would not render the climb unsuitable for a strong party. Good belays and sound rock. Sixty feet of rope sufficient for leader. A party of three might take three hours from the scree to the summit.

The Central Chimney is followed for 50 feet to the Birch-Tree Terrace. The exit is difficult if the rock is at all wet or greasy. Sufficient holds can be found on the left wall.

We follow the grass terrace to the west till the wall on the left appears sufficiently broken to make the upward passage easy. We then climb on to a platform with room for the party and a good belay. A shallow chimney slants upwards slightly to the left. About 60 feet above us is a quartz vein, to the right of which we can distinguish the recess below the slab of Route II. The climb lies on the right of the chimney. Behind a rib which bounds the chimney on this side is a hidden staircase, ending in a

crack, by means of which we easily reach the quartz and traverse to the right into the recess. Here is a broad shelf with good belays. The route on the left of the slab is up a smooth face of rock of 15 feet, with small holds at the extreme left-hand corner of the shelf. Here there is a good stance. Above this, with careful attention to balance, we can reach a small foothold. Before the next handhold can be reached it is necessary to wedge the left foot in a shallow crack, and, unless the right foot has been used to reach the foothold, it will be found somewhat awkward to change feet. We then reach a good hold on the right, which enables us to climb on to the grass ledge. A good belay is to be found here to the right, at the foot of the long chimneys of Route II. The slab of Route II. can be taken as an easy alternative to the passage described. Fifteen feet of climbing up a steep angle on the extreme left of the ledge lead us to the Roof, and the climb can be concluded by a chimney on the right, which leads to the Terrace a little to the west of the Cairn Traverse, or by the Roof itself. Various routes lead from the Cairn Traverse to the summit. Of these, the Terminal Arête is the easiest.

A traverse is made to the right on to the Terrace, a broad band which slopes from the Quartz Nose to the Shallow Gully. This is then ascended to the left, and a simple traverse made to the Quartz Nose. In the account of the first ascent of the East Peak of Lliwedd (the Central Route) it is stated that the traverse required care, as it was

## THE CLIMBS ON LLIWEDD

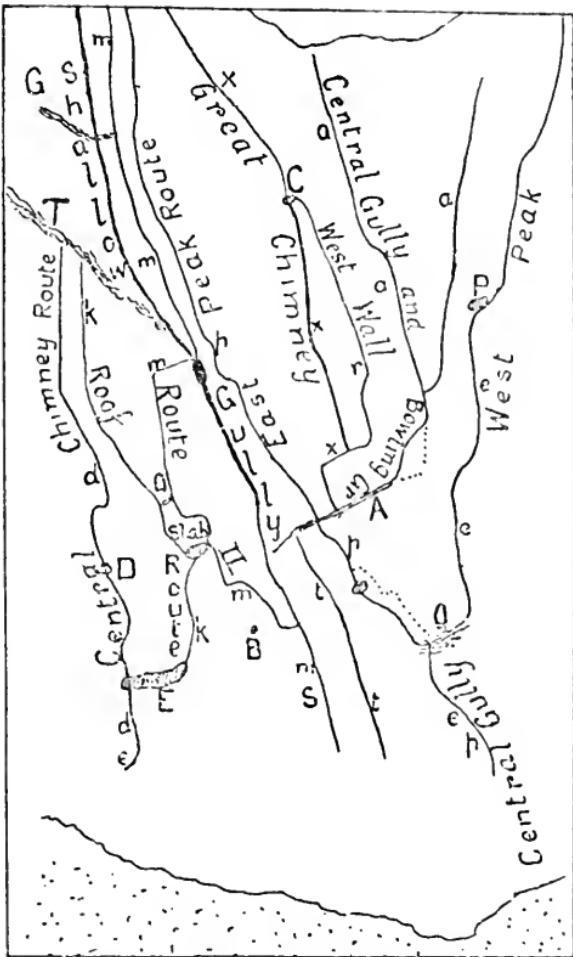
covered with snow. It should be noticed that the difficulty of climbing on Lliwedd is greatly increased by the presence of snow and ice. At the Quartz Nose there is a large grassy recess, suitable for a prolonged halt. From the left of this, the finish of the Black Arête climb, there is a fine view of the Horned Crag.

Above, the Terminal Arête is divided into two by a chimney, which affords the easiest route. There are splendid holds and good ledges. Some rocks at the exit are loose, and care should be taken not to dislodge them. Above, easy scrambling leads to the summit.

## ROUTE II

Steep slabs. A traverse on a ledge with good foothold, though little for the hands. Two chimneys of more than moderate difficulty. A difficult slab. A grass ledge 3 feet broad. A chimney of about 100 feet leading to the Terrace. Above this, excellent climbing on right wall of Shallow Gully to summit. Interest sustained to the end. Good belays. Two to five climbers. Eighty feet of rope desirable for leader. For rest, 60 fest intervals. Unsuitable under wet conditions.

About 20 feet of slabs lead to a small pulpit (2,030 feet), where the party can gather together. Thence the first



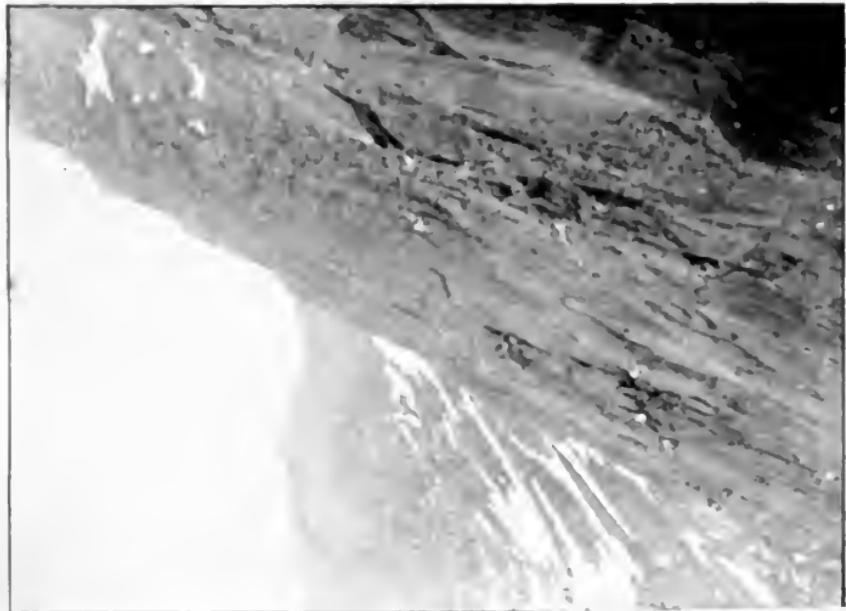
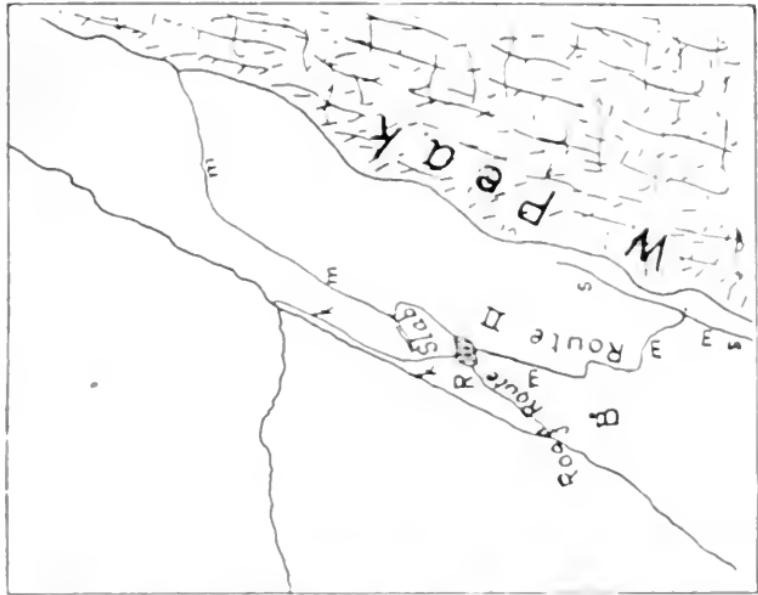
### EAST PEAK AND CENTRAL GULLY.

A, Bowling-Green; B, Quartz Babe; C, Chimney Shelf; D, Summer-House; E, Birch-Tree  
 Terraces; G, Gallery; P, Pulpit; Q, Quartz Shelf; Q, Quartz Ledge; T, Terrace.  
 a, a, Central Gully and Bowling-Green Traverse; d, d, Central Chimney Route; e, e,  
 Central Gully and West Peak Route; k, k, Roof Route; m, m, Route II.; p, p, Central  
 Gully and East Peak Route; r, r, West Wall Route; s, s, Shallow Gully Route;  
 t, t, Slab Climb; x, x, Great Chimney.

section lies up an open corner, and the climbing is partly on the face and partly in a crack, till a place is reached where there is just standing room for two and a belay. The leader now has to follow a very narrow ledge sloping upwards to the left. There is little for the hands, but the feet find good hold. Though not difficult, this traverse is somewhat sensational. At the end of the ledge comes a chimney, which should be followed inside, as the holds outside are unsound. At the top of this is a shelf, to which the whole party can come. The position is marked by a prominent white block, called the "Quartz Babe," on the left. A little more than 60 feet above, a quartz ledge can be seen, which marks the edge of the recess below the slab.

It is reached by a chimney on the right, a grass route on the left being avoided.

At the recess (2,370 feet) there is an excellent resting-place, whence the slab above can be surveyed. In appearance it is somewhat formidable, as the lower part possesses few holds. On the right is a foothold which seems somewhat awkward to reach, but an examination will disclose two small finger-holds on the left, which provide the necessary support. Above this, for 10 feet good balance is essential, but the difficulty is over as soon as the climber reaches the "thank-god hold," so called in remembrance of the pious remark attributed to each successive member of a recent party. The belay below the slab is excellent, and no serious accident could well occur



ROUTE II. FROM WEST TO M.



if the leader slipped on the first 15 feet of the slab, above which there are good holds.

Above, a short traverse upward to the left brings us to a broad grass ledge, which is supported on the east by a quartz vein. On the right of this is a steep chimney rising in two sections for 100 feet. There is a good belay at the bottom. The chimney is a little hard to enter, but the holds on each side are so good that there is no serious difficulty, though care is needed at one point near the exit of the upper section, where the holds are somewhat loose. About half-way up is a good stance, where the second man can come up. The leader cannot be assisted, and should exercise great care. If wet, this chimney is undesirable. An excellent alternative is to climb almost entirely on the right wall of these chimneys.

The exit from the chimney is by a quartz ledge, which leads on the right to the Terrace, near to the Shallow Gully. This must now be crossed above its cave pitch by a line of spillikins, some of which are loose and require testing. Above, the continuation is on the right wall of the Shallow Gully. The climbing is excellent, good small holds being found on the edge of this wall or rib which bounds the Shallow Gully on the west.

This rib is continuous to a long shelf (the Gallery), well marked on the photograph of Lliwedd by a band of snow. Above, there is good climbing to the summit, the route being still on the right of the Shallow Gully.

## THE SHALLOW GULLY

A gully, well marked almost from the screes to the summit. Difficult and narrow cracks to the left of the gully. A cave pitch. Shallow chimneys with small holds. For two climbers. Sixty or a hundred feet of rope required by leader. The cracks are unsuitable unless perfectly dry.

The bottom of the Shallow Gully is not followed, as the holds slope to the climber's disadvantage, and the only available crack is filled with grass. In its place we climb two narrow cracks on the left.

We follow Route II. to the first stance above the pulpit. We then climb two narrow cracks for about 100 feet. The second man can come up to a stance, but no good belay exists. Progress is made by wedging in the cracks and by the use of small holds outside. A slightly-built climber is at an advantage here.

A pleasing change is experienced when the cracks emerge in the bed of the Shallow Gully, which is here deeply cut in the face. An amusing cave pitch brings us to the level of the Terrace at the point where the gully is crossed by Route II. and the Girdle Traverse. Above this the gully is not so well marked, but its line cannot be mistaken. A large rib divides it into two sections ; the left branch

is followed. This forms a shallow groove, with small holds up to the Gallery.

Above the Gallery the gully almost vanishes, but becomes again well defined before the summit is approached. The upper part is somewhat earthy and unpleasant in wet weather.

### THE SLAB CLIMB

- **A difficult and exposed face, with small holds ; 100 feet of rope for two climbers, 190 for three or more. Perfect conditions essential.**

The climb starts almost in the crack formed by the bottom of the Shallow Gully, and follows an open face of 180 feet, the first half of which is of great difficulty, and lies at an angle of about 65 degrees. The rocks are sound throughout, but the holds are few in the lower section, and slope somewhat to the climber's disadvantage. The footholds are just large enough for rest in a number of places, but there is no ledge or stance. The climb goes almost directly upwards to a point about 10 feet below the level of the conspicuous grass shelf, which is reached by the traverse from the Central Gully to the East Peak. Here the leader bears to the right for a few feet, and ascends to the level of the shelf. Though there is no satisfactory ledge, a stance 3 inches wide can be found immediately to

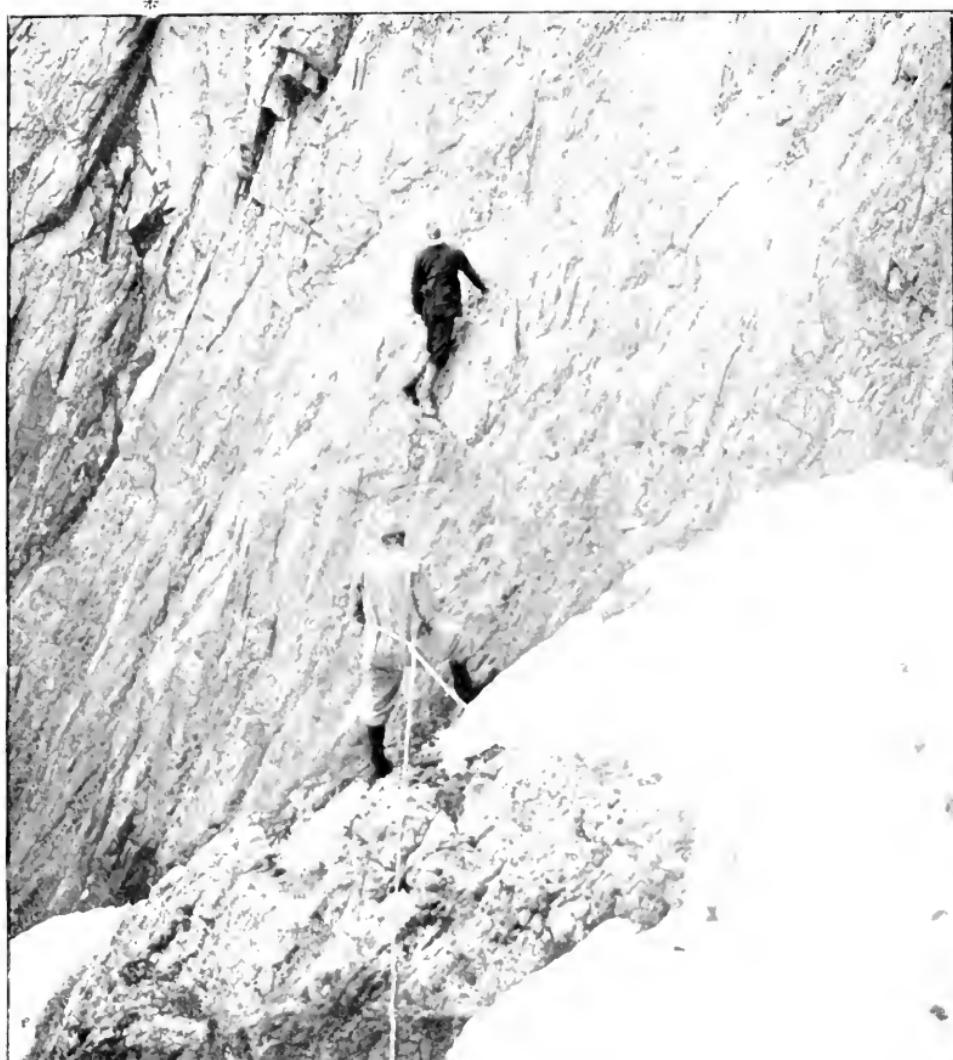
the right of a large block. This pinnacle should be treated with caution, as it is apparently resting on the slope with no support. The second man can now come up to the leader, but steadiness is essential, as there is no belay.

The upper 90 feet are much easier and delightful in character, as there are a number of small but square-cut holds about 5 feet apart, which somewhat resemble an artificial staircase. With good balance there is perfect safety. It is best to bear somewhat to the left, in the direction of the Shallow Gully, to reach the broad shelf known as the Bowling-Green.

### THE CENTRAL GULLY AND EAST PEAK

Slabs of Central Gully to Quartz Shelf. A difficult exit to the East Peak. Chimneys and ribs, affording good climbing to the summit. Good belays. Except in one section below the level of the Terrace, firm rock. Two to five climbers. Sixty feet of rope sufficient for leader. Can be climbed in any weather suitable for the Central Gully and West Peak Route.

The slabs of the Central Gully are ascended to the Quartz Shelf. No obvious traverse appears on the left, but the key to the exit is a crack visible on the photograph. The leader and the second man climb on to a ledge on the left wall, where small spillikins afford a good belay.

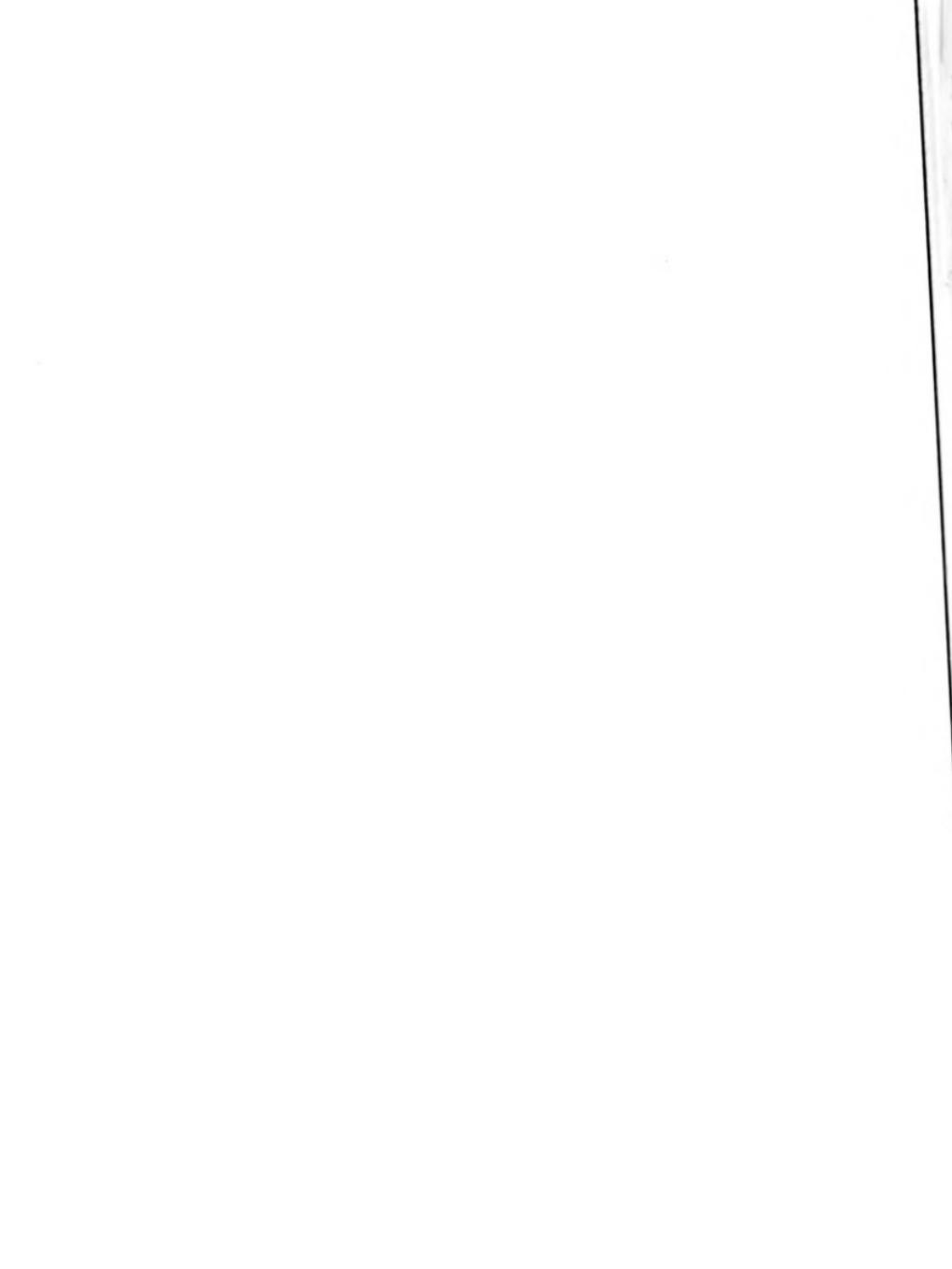


AN EXPLORER.

*A. W. Andrews.*

*"Still to new heights his restless wishes tower,*

*The exit from the Central Gully to the East Peak.]*



In the direction of the crack the ledge narrows to the vanishing point. We stand on the extreme left of this ledge, at the highest point possible, and place the left foot in the crack. With the right hand we steady ourselves on the wall above, and reach out with the left hand to a triangular hold at the top of the crack. This affords sufficient security to transfer the balance to the left foot, and place the right hand beside the left. A short struggle brings us to a good shelf, just above which is an excellent belay. The rest of the party should come up to this point. A good view of the passage can be obtained from the traverse to the West Peak.

Above, a steep chimney, with holds at the bottom somewhat far apart, leads to a good stance, and a second easier chimney to the Bowling-Green, which forms a wide shelf. Hence a chimney is followed for about 20 feet, and a traverse made to the left to a rib up which a staircase is climbed to another shelf. All the rock here is somewhat loose, and care should be taken to test it.

More loose rock on an easy slope leads to a broad shelf with a cairn. Above, two chimneys lead upwards, of which the left is the easier. The upper part admits of some variation. Though not difficult, the climbing is interesting to the summit.

## THE FLANKING SLABS OF THE GREAT CHIMNEY

This short but interesting variant connects the quartz streak of the Girdle Traverse with the Chimney Shelf (*cf.* next account). It is close to one of the hardest obstacles on the Traverse, and in case of repulse thereat will prove a convenient line of retreat. Approached from the Terrace, it forms an alternative to the continuation of any route that comes thereto.

We climb from the streak up the slabs, following a series of good holds to an upper and broader ledge. Twenty feet higher we encounter an obstruction of no little severity, corresponding in position to the most exacting part of the Great Chimney. The ascent of this pitch tests the soundness of heart and lungs.

On the right of a smooth trough is a prominent corner rising above a block, round which the rope can be passed. A stance veneered with quartz is first reached. A knob on the left is then grasped at arm's length, and a long stride or a swing made into a shallow groove. This develops into an open chimney, which curves upwards to the Chimney Shelf. The hardest part of the pitch is plainly vertical; this comes at the beginning. The degree of difficulty experienced is in inverse ratio to the length of the climber's reach. The summit of the mountain is gained subsequently by one of the routes described in the account of the West Wall.

## THE GREAT CHIMNEY OF LLIWEDD

Reached from the Bowling-Green. A long traverse of 130 feet on a narrow exposed ledge of rock. An unequalled and formidable chimney climb of 330 feet. There are no belays in lower and longer section, but good facilities for wedging. Suitable for three; all must be experienced, as steadiness is essential on the traverse. Leader needs 80 feet of rope. No aid can be given him on the hard parts.

To those acquainted with its crags it will cause no surprise that the finest chimney in England and Wales should have been discovered on the East Peak of Lliwedd. In loftiness and strength of character the Great Chimney has no rival. Its height is 330 feet. A shelf cutting it transversely separates the upper reach of 85 feet from the lower. Throughout the lower reach the right wall overhangs, and the left curves away into smooth slabs. The structure so far resembles the chimney of the cave pitch in the Slanting Gully; it is, however, much steeper, having an average angle of 72 degrees, and in parts an angle of 80 degrees. In addition, it is more than three times as high.

By the Central Gully and East Peak Route we ascend to the shelf, called hyperbolically the Bowling-Green (2,360 feet). The Chimney is now in sight above and to the west of us. The manner of gaining access thereto is of great interest. The leader scrambles up a furrow parallel to the chimney for about 30 feet, and is joined by a

companion on a small stance. The right wall shuts out the view, but, guessing the level of the unseen goal, the climber thrusts the right leg over the wall at a venture: happening upon a good hold, he works deliberately over the abrupt corner. A narrow ledge now runs horizontally for 130 feet to the sentry-box at the foot of the chimney (2,395 feet). This charming traverse lies on solid rock, for the most part along a ribbon of yellow quartz. At some distance from the corner a small but sound spillikin below the ledge can be used for belaying the rope. To this point the second man comes before the leader advances. A pile of lodged blocks (one loose) guards the entrance to the chimney. Beyond this obstacle, easy to overcome, the chimney narrows considerably. The left wall supplies the holds, which are water-worn, rounded in consequence, and perfectly sound. Wherever they cease, the plan is to wedge and writhe. The first man climbs 70 feet before reaching a *locus standi* sufficiently good for a definite halt.

The climbing continues to be superexcellent. At the approximate height of 2,480 feet the right wall, which has so far contributed little, offers the climber a seat on a little ledge of rock. Hereon he can sit in state, and enjoy the view of strangely impressive surroundings. Later he will stand on the throne and bestride the chimney, this being the strongest position for drawing in the rope and the most suitable for appreciating the humour of the situation,



*A. E. Evans.*

THE GREAT CHIMNEY OF LLIWEDD.



as a companion will be seen through the legs rising from the abyss below. Soon afterwards a streak of quartz comes to the brink of the chimney. This is part of the Girdle Traverse. A little higher the gradient sensibly diminishes, and the upper ledge mentioned in the last account can be reached easily; there is, however, no need to leave the bed of the chimney. The climbers can establish themselves by wedging in at short intervals. The first man now requires 60 feet of rope, for though the final reach, rising at an angle of 80 degrees, appears to be divided into three parts, the stages are more apparent than real. On the second a momentary rest can be taken by jamming the right leg into a vertical rift. On the final portion the holds give out, but the roughness of the left wall, in spite of the splay, enables us to bridge up the remaining height. After a series of strenuous efforts we land upon the Chimney Shelf (cairns, 2,630 feet), where we can revel at ease in that indefinable luxury of feeling that attends the accomplishment of a difficult climb.

The interest, however, does not end here. Scrambling over a large boulder, we enter the upper continuation of the chimney. The standard of difficulty is less high; yet towards the exit the safest plan is to resort again to bridging. Bearing now slightly to the east over a slope of débris, we reach a deeply-cut fissure, which brings the party to the summit ridge, and a fine climb to an appropriate finish (cairn, 2,910 feet).

## THE WEST WALL OF THE GREAT CHIMNEY

Ascent to the foot of the Great Chimney, and afterwards of a sound ridge. For the latter, 60 feet of rope is sufficient for the leader. Suitable for three climbers.

When the party is assembled at the beginning of the chimney, the second man keeps watch in the sentry-box while the leader ventures round the prominent corner on the west side. The stances are quite sufficient. He then advances in a slightly oblique line up a very steep stretch of rock, to gain the crest of the ridge. The holds are most satisfying, but occasionally hard to reach. At the distance of 50 feet from the starting-place he is joined by his companion beside a belaying-baluster. The route is now straight up. Good rocks, a short green incline, and an entertaining chimney of 15 feet are met with on the way to the Chimney Shelf, which is attained with an ease hardly to be expected from the nature of the surroundings (cairns, 2,630 feet). Here we have a threefold choice: to finish in or near the bed of the Central Gully, to climb the continuation chimney, or to break out therefrom at the level of a wedged boulder, and traverse, more or less horizontally, to the Gallery. These alternatives stand in order of length, with the longest last.

The routes from the Gallery have already been mentioned. The Grey Chimney at the east end is associated by tradition with this traverse.

## THE CENTRAL GULLY BY THE BOWLING-GREEN

Slabs of Central Gully. Traverse by Central Gully and East Peak Route and ascent to Bowling-Green. Traverse to Central Gully, above long crack, by ledge and difficult rib. Upper part of Central Gully mainly in deeply-cut chimneys. Two to five climbers. Sixty feet of rope sufficient for leader.

The Central Gully is ascended as far as the Quartz Shelf, where the angle steepens at the foot of the long crack.

The Bowling-Green (2,360 feet) is reached by the Central Gully and East Peak Route, or by a more difficult variation on the right. This variation involves an ascent to a stance on the right of the usual route, below a prominent overhanging rock which resembles an extinguisher. A satisfactory belay gives confidence for a hand-traverse on a quartz ledge. Care should be taken to test the security of the quartz. Above, chimneys are followed to the Bowling-Green. The Bowling-Green is a shelf, broad on the east and narrowing on the west, which is nearly continuous to the Central Gully, at the level of the top of the long crack. At its west extremity a steep rib of rock shuts it off from the gully. A chimney is followed for 15 feet, and the rib reached. Much of this is difficult, and needs delicate balancing, as the footholds are very small and there is little for the fingers.

From about 30 feet up the rib a short descent is made

into the gully. A variation to the gully from the Bowling-Green crosses the rib at a lower level to the top of the long crack; this involves an exposed and difficult traverse. The position now reached is familiar to all gully climbers, though unusual on Lliwedd. A deeply-cut gully, divided into two branches, either of which affords good sport, shuts off all side-views, and progress is made in the interior by chimneys and faces. There is no special difficulty on any pitch of the upper portion, though the climbing is interesting to the summit.



RECOLLECTION OF THE EAST PEAK.

*A. E. Eliot*



### SECTION III

#### THE WEST PEAK

#### THE CENTRAL GULLY AND WEST PEAK

Follows the slabs of the Central Gully to the Quartz Shelf. Traverse on to West Peak. A short but steep slab, with few holds on its lower part. Leader can be secured. Chimneys, ribs, and faces with good holds. Broad shelves at convenient intervals. Number immaterial. Leader requires 60 feet of rope. Has been often climbed in bad weather, but lower slabs unpleasant when very wet or iced.

The slabs of the Central Gully are followed for fully 150 feet to a commodious recess (the Quartz Shelf), with ample room for several parties. The easiest route lies east of the centre, a section of which for about 10 feet has few handholds, but the slabs present no serious difficulties. The gutter on the right affords more opportunities for wedging, and under some conditions—*i.e.*, slabs greasy or very wet, a film of ice on slabs and not in gutter—provides an easier route, as the hand- and footholds are larger. This gutter, however, is the natural channel for falling stones, and has on this account always an element of danger.

To reach the traverse on the right, a step upward is necessary across the gutter ; we are then on a broad ledge, with a large loose block in the centre. We walk along this for a few yards, and step round the corner on to a rib, up which we climb by a groove, a little difficult at the start, to a good shelf with an excellent belay. The rest of the party should then come up. We have now reached the difficult portion of the climb. Small ledges, some distance apart, give access to the slab, 120 feet above the Quartz Shelf. On the right this is buttressed by a rib, against which we press with the feet till we can reach some small though excellent handholds on the slab, about 10 feet above. The remainder is then simple, and we climb over quartz and rock, the upper part of the rib mentioned, to a good shelf, from which we step round the corner on the right. Real climbing ends at about 100 feet from the slab. Above this an easy face with shallow grooves leads to the Pulpit, a commodious knoll well cushioned with heather and grass.

From here to the summit the angle diminishes, and a variety of routes can be followed over easy rocks. If desired, climbing can be prolonged by a descent into the Central Gully from the Pulpit, and the ascent of either of its branches.

TRAVESTI FROM THE CENTRAL GULLY.





## THE INTERMEDIATE ROUTE

Between the Central Gully and the Primitive Route. A chimney and a short stretch of steep wall. After 300 feet, easy. Two to four climbers. Leader requires 50 feet of rope.

To the west of the Central Gully and parallel with its gutter are three distinct chimneys. The first of these is full of vegetation, and inferior, as a climb, to the gully itself. It ends upon the well-known traverse. The third, or most westerly, has nothing to recommend it, but on the right of it is a square corner of 30 to 40 feet. This interesting pitch gives access to a broad ledge, whence the Primitive Route or the green shelf on the Central Gully and West Peak Route may be reached by a short scramble.

The Central or Intermediate Chimney has more depth and distinction than either of the other two. The last 50 feet are not easy, but the second man has a secure position. The exit upon the green shelf is heather-grown and needs special care, as the holds are scanty. At the west end of the shelf lies a narrow recess, which at one point entails somewhat of a struggle, if climbed without aid. Above is a good stance on a steep wall. This is climbed with slight divergence to the right, till a definite and horizontal ledge is struck. The ledge is followed westwards, and as soon as a semicircular depression—the

Theatre—comes into sight below, the rocks are ascended in a diagonal line to the east, and the foregoing route is joined above the last pitch (2,425 feet).

### THE PRIMITIVE ROUTE

One of the easiest ascents of Lliwedd. Intervals of 40 feet sufficient. Above 2,400 feet, a scramble. Some débris on the upper part. Except when covered with snow, suitable for large parties.

But for a slightly different exit from the gully, this was the original Gully and Buttress Climb made in 1884, abandoned a few years later, and finally forgotten.

For solitary ascents and descents of the face, this and the Bilberry Terrace Route have proved the best choice.

The Upper Terrace is a long shelf, overgrown with heather, and sloping upwards in a westerly direction. It can be reached from the scree by way of the rocks just outside the Central Gully, or more conveniently by climbing in the Gully for 70 feet. At the point for traversing out, a short chimney is seen in a plane at right angles to that of the face. This gives access to the Terrace. At its west extremity we begin to climb the wall that springs from it. A ledge is reached large enough for a party. Above it the wall steepens. The leader scrambles on to a mantelpiece, and within a few yards is confronted by the only notable pitch on the climb. Even when dry it has



*A. W. Andrews*  
THE BIRD CRAG.



puzzled experienced climbers. Heroic methods, however, are not necessary. We step into a shallow chimney, which must be crossed from east to west, and at the same time in an upward direction. The right hand obtains a side-grip on the edge of a leaf on one side of the chimney; the left will have already reached a satisfying knob on the other. The right foot is raised to an obvious notch, and then the weight is transferred thereto. This solution is both simple and innocent. A protruding nose is then rounded, and a strong position (belay) attained on the rocks at the head of the chimney. A short glacis follows. The upper half of the wall is cut by a deep channel. The name of Hanging Gully is given on account of its position on the face. The steepness of the angle and the super-excellence of the holds render this a luxurious climb. Continuing for 100 feet, it debouches into a wide, semicircular depression, called the Cirque, or Theatre (2,400 feet). The line of least resistance therefrom lies on the east side, where a stretch of broken rocks leads up to the Pulpit.

From this popular haunt the way to the summit is best left to the taste of the individual. It is, however, well worthy of remark that any débris disturbed falls eventually into the Central Gully.

## THE DIRECT ROUTE

Mainly a gully climb. Firm rock on the steepest part. Best number two, with 120 feet of rope, for the leader needs 50 feet for the Red Chimney and 60 feet more to reach good anchorage in a straight line. This final and very difficult pitch should not be attempted in wet or gusty weather. It can be avoided by a traverse to the Pulpit.

The traverses met with on this part of the mountain are not of the type that lend an added charm to the climb on which they occur. They serve to connect various pitches, without constituting in themselves a notable feature of any ascent.

The Direct Route was the outcome of an attempt to eliminate them altogether.

From the scree we climb up to the east end of the Bilberry Terrace, and joining this at once by an easy chimney to the east extremity of the Upper Terrace, proceed in the manner described in the preceding account as far as the Theatre, or Cirque. Here we break new ground by adhering to the bed of the Hanging Gully, formerly an operation of no little difficulty, owing to the multiplicity of loose spikes, a few of which still remain in their place. This second section, 70 feet in height, is terminated by a green patch at the altitude of 2,460 feet. Resisting the allurements of the Sanctum on one side and of the Pulpit far away on the other, we continue in the same line, and



*J. M. A. Thomson*  
NATURAL CAIRN.



ascend the third and steepest reach of the gully. This brings us, within a distance of 60 feet, to a convenient resting-place at the foot of the Red Chimney. This lofty pitch looks extremely difficult, and in no wise belies its appearance: for the chimney narrows to a crack, and the right wall so closely overhangs it that the climber is gradually forced into an uncommonly breezy position on the opposite slabs. Four points of attachment are procurable throughout, but many of the nicks can be utilized only by the actual extremities. No definite goal comes within the climber's range of vision as he rises until he is able to alight on a row of small grass-tufts upon an open face. In the meantime the Hanging Gully has come to a sudden and singular end. At this stance the anchorage is far from perfect, for while sufficient purchase is obtainable for gently influencing the ascent of a companion, the need of greater security is felt. A hundred and twenty feet of rope would be useful, to allow the leader to ascend the next 60 feet to a secure stance. A stretch of slabs, inclined at a more moderate angle, leads to a wide semi-circular recess, carpeted with heather (2,680 feet). The remainder of the climb above the "Apse" produces a sensation of pleasurable ease.

## CRAIG-YR-ADERYN ROUTE

**A** sound ascent. The climber is nowhere compelled to the handling of anything but firm rock. Several stiff but short pitches. Good landing-places. A long crack. Suitable for five or six. Leader needs 40 feet of rope and 80 feet on Craig-yr-Aderyn.

The most interesting section of the Primitive Route is first ascended, but on reaching or approaching the Theatre (2,400 feet) a divergence is made to the right, towards a conspicuous pile of fallen rocks—one might say a cairn—built on Nature's liberal scale. Opposite this, but screened from view, there lies a rectangular recess, accessible from either of two parallel platforms. To reach the lower, we break out of the Hanging Gully about 20 feet below the Theatre. A solid baluster of rock facilitates the manœuvre. The higher platform, extending from the Theatre itself, has an abrupt termination, but it is a simple matter to climb down part of the way and leap deliberately the last few feet. The ascent of the recess is begun by a specialized form of bridging. The projecting leaf on the left gives room for one foot only, so that the legs must be crossed in the fashion familiar to figure-skaters. The strain is severe, but release is soon given by a narrow crack, which leads up to a small patch of heather at the top of the pitch. Fetching a compass to the right, we are confronted by a black wall, and to discover a method of



CRAIG YR-ADERYN.

*A. W. Andress*



scaling it is our next problem. The key is a huge block, fallen forward into a recumbent position. We stand upon this cantilever, and climb the strictly vertical niche it has vacated. The stability of the stance is not far above suspicion. If the block is securely wedged, the second man can assist with a shoulder. The writer prefers that he should remain below upon a ledge on the west side. The leader can hitch his own rope over a spike at his feet. It must be added that the ascent of the pitch then entails a supreme effort.

An easy glacis now leads to the Sanctum. This charming retreat, sheltered by impending walls and carpeted with soft heather, suggests a prolonged interval of cushioned ease. A mild diagonal route from the Theatre also leads thereto. We leave the Sanctum by climbing a crooked chimney in the west wall, or a far more difficult alternative in the shape of an overhanging escarpment on the right of the chimney. This is a work of supererogation, for in either case we are landed on a shelf at the foot of Craig-yr-Aderyn. The Bird Crag, 80 feet in height, appears from the scree a pinnacle, but proves to be the sharp edge of a projecting rib. A crack 6 inches in width gives us the rare pleasure of climbing in perfect safety an exposed arête at an angle of 80 degrees. One foot can be wedged in the crack throughout. It ends about 60 feet above, on a little ledge of rock. The leader should ascend alone, and wait at this point for his companion. From the ledge

the top is attained with less or greater effort, according to the distance of the line chosen from the actual edge of the rib. A long splinter wedged into the riven summit in 1898 still remains *in situ*, and forms a valuable landmark, visible from any point of vantage on this part of the mountain. On our right, and near an outcrop of quartz, begins a succession of small broken ridges, which provide a good rock finish for this captivating climb.

#### BILBERRY TERRACE ROUTE

Affords extensive views of the face. Lower part a broken gallery, with slopes of heather. Upper part steeper. Eight short pitches in all. One chimney difficult. Number of climbers immaterial. Intervals of 40 feet.

From a platform near the foot of the Central Gully steep rocks are ascended to the lower end of the Bilberry Terrace. This is traversed to its farther extremity, where it is joined by a rocky gallery. Following this westwards, we encounter the first definite obstacle, a moderately difficult slab, facing Crib Goch (2,300 feet). The landing-place is large. A few yards above it we step round a sharp corner, and traverse horizontally to a short chimney facing east. A lodged block at the foot facilitates ascent. The gallery now assumes the form of an easy open gully, whose grassy finish can be neatly avoided by climbing a mantelshelf on



ANGLE NOOK TRAVERSE.

*J. M. A. Thomson.*



the right side. A slope of heather succeeds, and leads up to the Pinnacle Corner (cairn, 2,430 feet). The broken gallery ends here. A shallow recess rises from it in the direction of the summit. Beginning preferably in a bridged cleft close by, we climb the recess, which terminates about 60 feet above the Pinnacle in a nearly smooth and vertical slab 7 feet high. It can be climbed in the right corner by rock-holds awkwardly spaced, or in front by grasping grass. There is no risk, as the second man has a good stance within 10 feet of the leader. This pitch is the threshold of the Angle Nook, where a small party can assemble. A ledge runs from it eastwards to the Yellow Chimney. The figure in the illustration is standing at its foot.

Amusing incidents have been witnessed here, and, as attitudes have been assumed apparently inconsistent with the human anatomy and laws of gravity, it may not be superfluous to add that the best method is to bridge up with the back against the right wall.

A glacis intervenes between the top of this chimney and the foot of an ancillary rib. Its sharp edge is ascended *à cheval* for 25 feet. It is convenient to take a short leap, with the rope hitched, down to a green patch on the east side. This can be attained by the slab that flanks the rib, but the holds are indifferently developed. A weak point in the semicircular wall above is found by bearing a few yards to the west. A steep yellow corner is climbed, after which the summit is easily gained in ten minutes.

## VARIATIONS.

(a) The pitches above the Angle Nook can be avoided by following up the traverse therefrom. This leads to easier rocks on the west side of Craig-yr-Aderyn.

(b) From the glacis we can bear to the east round a prominent corner, marked by the Natural Cairn No. 3.

(c) Passing through the gap between the Pinnacle and the face, and along a narrow ledge for 50 feet, we can ascend a broad open couloir, and then traverse back to the Natural Cairn. This loop variation eliminates all the definite obstacles.

(d) The Angle Nook and the Pinnacle Corner can be connected by climbing the ridge that retains the shallow depression on the west side. This Pinnacle Ridge is sound and good, and can be followed higher, nearly to the level of the Natural Cairn.

## THE ROCKER ROUTE

The most central route on the West Peak. Difficult. A steep sound arête of 250 feet. A formidable wall. Various chimneys and three intervals of scrambling. A descent of 40 feet necessary. Number, two to five. Leader needs 70 feet of rope.

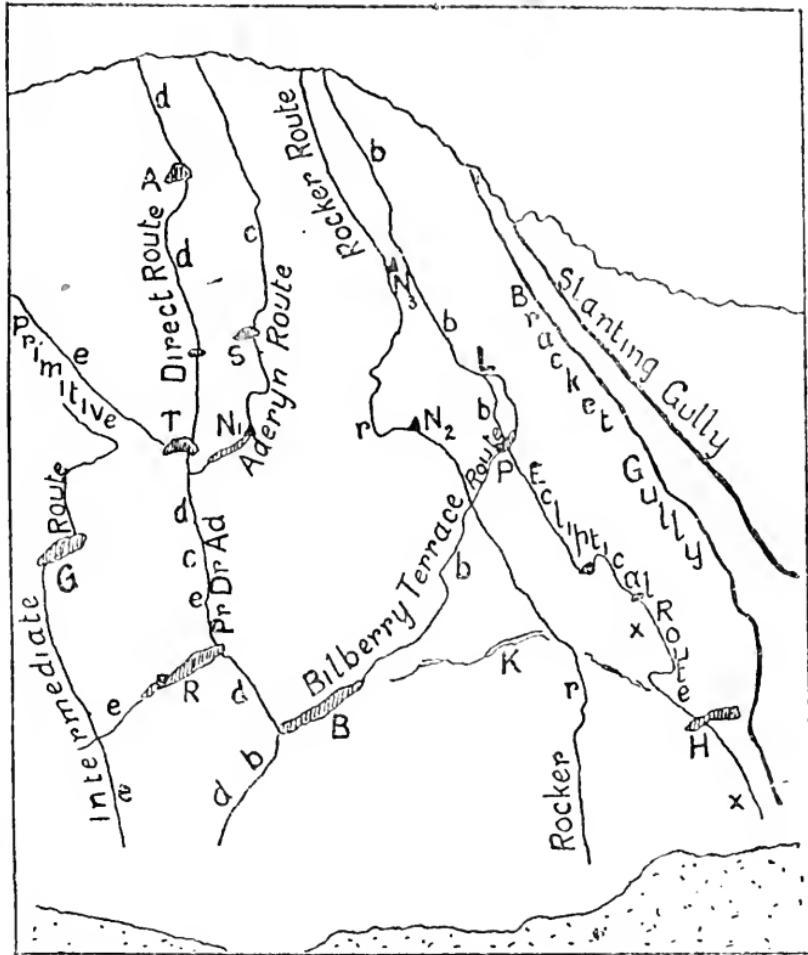
Some previous knowledge of the face may be necessary in order to find this route, but whoever succeeds in doing





THE WEST PEAK.

*A. B. Andrus*



### THE WEST PEAK.

A, Apse; B, Bilberry Terrace; G, Green Shelf; H, Ash-Tree Terrace; K, Broken Traverse; L, Angle Nook; N, 1, 2, 3, Natural Cairns; P, Pinnacle Corner; R, Upper Terrace; S, Sanetum; T, Theatre.

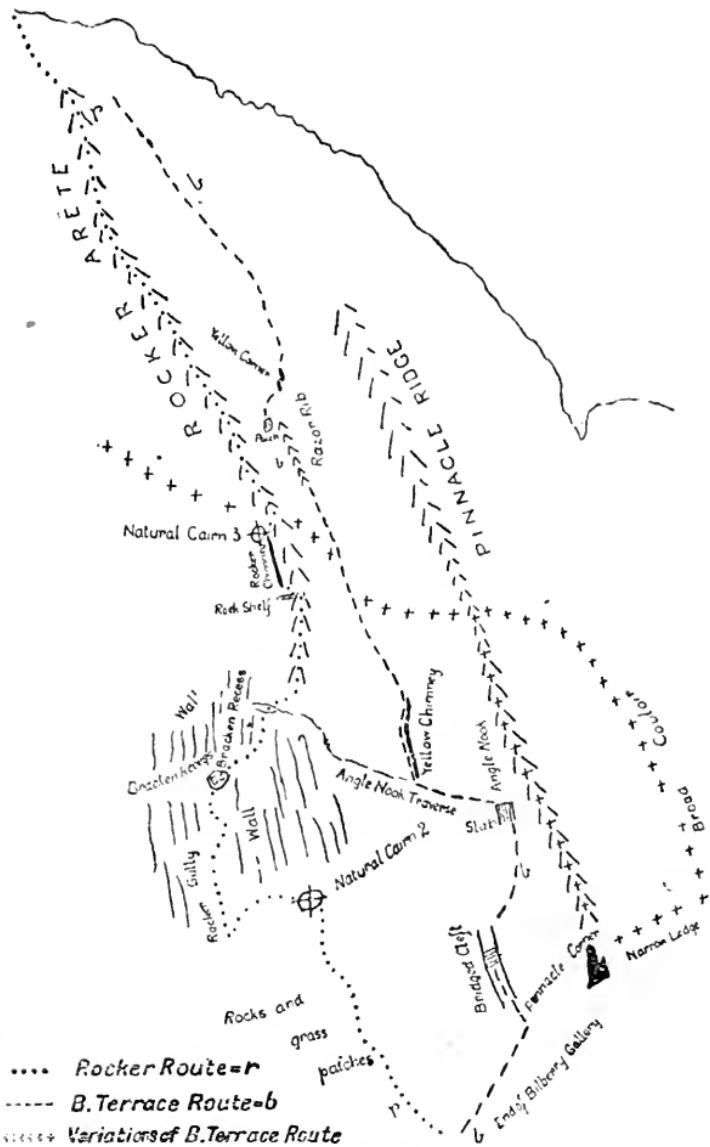
b, Bilberry Terrace Route; c, Craig-yr-Aderyn Route; d, Direct Route; e, Primitive Route; r, Rocker Route; x, Elliptical Route.

so will be well rewarded for his perseverance. It is peculiar in this—that the better part of the climbing is on the upper half of the ascent.

The starting-point is plainly indicated by a cairn built round a stake at the top of the scree. The ascent is begun upon rocks lined with quartz, and a scramble follows for less than 100 feet to a small grass-floored recess flanked by a nose on one side and slabs on the other.

Two open chimneys in the latter enable us to proceed, but not without some difficulty, to a green patch 40 feet above. This spot can be identified by an infant ash (one of the five on the West Peak) and by a small cairn. This is connected by a short chimney with a third shelf, whence a flight of steps leads up to the Broken Traverse.

If anyone so desires, he can now pursue an undulating course into the Central or the Slanting Gully. The most conspicuous object in view is a massive rib which rises at right angles to the terrace, and shows a curious gash at its base. We ascend the slope on the east side of this, and are checked first by a low yellow slab, and subsequently by a vertical pitch of 12 feet, by no means easily overcome, unless a good handhold hidden in heather be discovered and utilized. An easy slope of rocks and heather leads up to the Bilberry Terrace Route, which we cross, and on the south side of it climb an oblique chimney (2,390 feet), whence we scramble up the face, by joining sundry ledges, as far as a prominent pile of fallen splinters—the second



.... RockerRoute=r

----- B. Terrace Route=b

#### *Variations of B.Terrace Route*

## PURLIEUS OF THE PINNACLE CORNER.

Natural Cairn (2,450 feet). Thence we trend eastwards along a narrowing ledge, which drops suddenly and deposits us on sheer slabs. By a long stride we gain entrance to a clean gully, whose outline resembles that of a partly open book. At this point, however, the possibility of error is remote. The climber emerges from the gully either on the left with grace and a long step, or on the right with equal safety and a stomach finish. The former level is thus regained on a good rock ledge with an excellent belaying-pin. The route then lies up a short continuation on the west, but false scents can be followed before discovering a way up the wall beyond. By a single zigzag we come to the foot of a breast-wall, and, with the rope hitched below, surmount it by clutching grass. Access is thus gained to the Bracken Recess (2,488 feet). A divergence is now made to the west, along a third ledge on a bluff, to a black-and-white wing of rock screening a series of steps suggestive of a spiral staircase (cairn). These lead up to the Angle Nook Traverse. Nearly opposite us rises a splendid arête, which continues in a straight line for 250 feet. It is best for the leader to ascend alone the first 60 feet, and secure a strong position on a rocky platform. The climbing on this very steep section is both difficult and delightful. The rock is of good quality, and the number of holds just sufficient for safe climbing. From the platform we enter a deep chimney beside the crest, closed above our heads by a chock-stone, which proves to be one of the fallen

blocks that go to form the third Natural Cairn—a landmark of great service on a descent of the face by the Terrace Route. So effectively is the line of ascent concealed from view that the writer has frequently lunched upon these blocks without suspecting the existence of the chasm beneath them. Beyond, the arête threatens to become smooth, but within 30 feet again produces excellent holds, which continue until it loses individuality 20 yards from the summit (cairn).

### THE ELLIPTICAL ROUTE

Number should not exceed three. A very stiff face climb for experts only. Rock sound, but holds scanty. Landing-places on verdant ledges. Leader needs 70 feet of rope, and aid at one point. A jump is taken. Impracticable after rain.

In skirting the base of the cliff between the beginning of the Rocker Route and that of the Bracket Gully, a green terrace will be noticed 70 feet above the level of the scree. It can be reached by way of the steep rocks directly below it, or by breaking out of the Bracket Gully, while a third—easier, but circuitous—route lies on the east side of both. From this Ash-Tree Terrace we gain the next 30 feet by tacking first to the left, then back to the right, till a jutting rib cuts us off in that direction. Here we climb round

a right-angled corner into a square recess. At the top of this a small but sound peg of rock proves of great service both for belaying and afterwards for stepping out on to the open face, where an uncommonly steep staircase of 30 to 40 feet is ascended. This terminates at a bulge of turf, to which the second man comes. The climber may doubt the security of the position until he espies on his left a splendid stanchion of rock equal to any strain likely to be laid upon it (2,280 feet).

Confident of this, the leader proceeds to draw himself up into a niche in the wall above the bulge, and attacks a shallow and almost vertical groove, which cannot be rightly called either a chimney or a crack. Should this be wet, he will do well to abandon the ascent at once, and seek consolation in the Bracket or the Slanting Gully; these are conveniently close, and incomparably easier climbs. On the first 15 feet of the pitch the work is mainly done by the arms, and some 50 feet must be climbed before a good resting-place is reached on a patch of grass. The second man joins. A short distance beyond this the line of ascent comes to a premature end, beside an unpromising angular chimney. We appear to be hemmed in by impending crags, and progress in any direction seems problematical. A leap is taken to a slightly sloping green shelf on the left of the line of ascent. Reckless jumping, even on easy places, cannot be too strongly condemned, for nothing on a mountain is more liable to be misjudged than



THE PINNACLE CORNER.

*A. E. Elias*



the effect of a downward leap upon a sloping surface. Such an error caused the fatal accident to Émil Rey, the famous guide, on the Dent du Géant. Further generalization is not possible. The facilities at each spot must be carefully gauged. With a companion well placed and the rope well managed, a short deliberate leap, meditatively taken, need not involve greater risk than a spring across a crevasse on a glacier.

Near the east end of this new base the leader has before him a steep wall. The lower part recedes but little from the vertical. Just above the starting-place the holds are inadequate, and here, if nowhere else on the mountain, the first man requires a gentle *vis a tergo* administered by the raised arm of his companion. A short but hard chimney is soon reached, and above this is a good stance (small cairn on a nose). The skyline is now not far above. We climb the intervening stretch of steep, sound rock, and over a sharply-defined edge to a small flat platform. The climber is forcibly struck by the sharp contrast in the character of his surroundings; a second glance shows that he has ascended the great wall from the scree to the Pinnacle Corner (cairn, 2,430 feet).

## THE BRACKET GULLY

Between the Elliptical Route and the Slanting Wall. A curving gully, continuous from scree to summit, can be clearly seen from certain view-points of the West Peak. Shallow open chimneys, with good small holds. One stiff chimney of 15 feet, climbed by wedging. Two to four climbers. Sixty feet of rope desirable for leader.

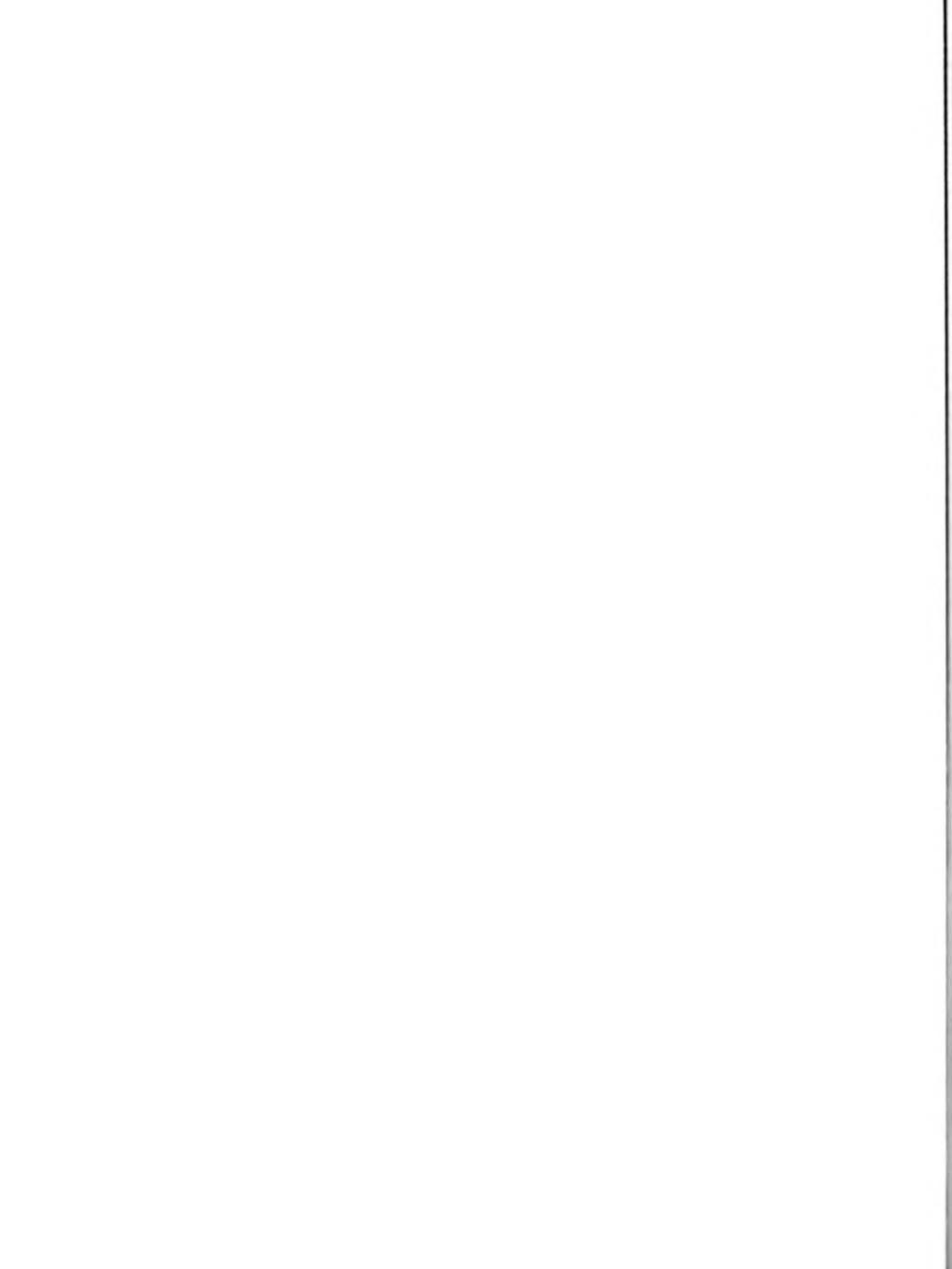
When wet, the pitch at the bottom is best turned on the left wall. The climbing is up a water-worn gully, with short, steep pitches. Between each are found satisfactory platforms. The handholds on the steep portions are small, but of a recessed character.

About 250 feet up we reach a grass shelf with a fine cave. A traverse can be made here on the west to the second quartz ledge below the chief pitch of the Slanting Gully.

Above the cave a steep section, rather greasy in wet weather, leads us upward, and we reach a striking chimney (2,500 feet). Though only 15 feet, it usually needs some gymnastic efforts, but a shoulder is unnecessary. Wedging, however, renders it quite safe. If the upper portion of the gully is wet, the rocks on the left afford a pleasant alternative. The climbing continues to be interesting to the summit.



*A. E. Elias*  
RECOLLECTION OF THE WEST PEAK.



## THE CRACK AND SLANTING WALL CLIMB

Between the Bracket Gully and the Slanting Gully. A steep crack of about 100 feet, with good holds. Above, easy rocks. Any number. Leader should have 60 feet of rope.

The bottom of the crack is rather hard to find, as it cannot be clearly seen from immediately below.

It can be reached from either east or west. Climbers are recommended to commence the ascent a little to the west of the Bracket Gully, at a point where they find easy rocks, and skirt the bottom of the steep wall till they discover the beginning of the crack, about 30 feet above them.

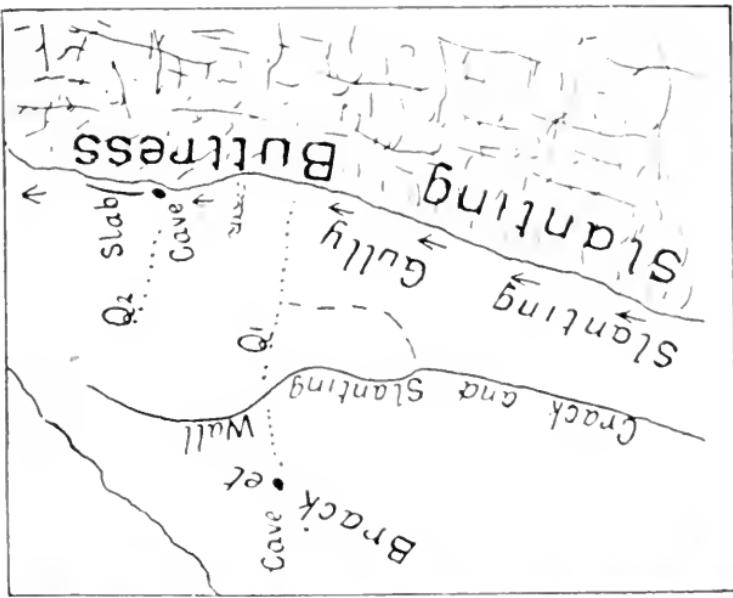
A smooth slab sloping to the west brings us to the level of the bottom of the crack. Here is a good belay. From this point a somewhat awkward step to the left enables us to reach the crack. Once attained, it is not difficult. Though too shallow to wedge in, the holds are sufficient. About half-way up is a small belay, round which the rope can be held. The last 40 feet is comparatively simple. Above is a large platform. Easy rocks can be now followed either to left or right, and traverses made into the Slanting Gully by either of the two quartz ledges below the cave pitch or by a broad shelf above it. Though not difficult, good climbing is continuous to the summit.

## THE SLANTING GULLY AND SLANTING WALL

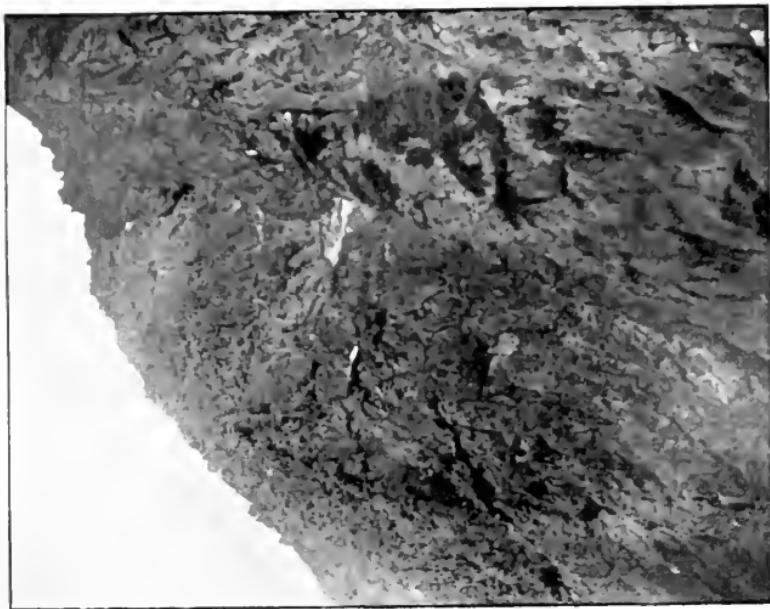
Follows the lower part of the Slanting Gully, and reaches the Slanting Wall by a traverse on a quartz ledge to the east. No pitch of any difficulty. Good climbing on sound rock. Number immaterial. Fifty feet of rope for leader. One of the easiest and least-exposed routes on Lliwedd.

The Slanting Gully is followed to the rib, which forms the first obstacle. The left chimney is then followed for about 12 feet, and a horizontal traverse made to the edge of the rib. This is then ascended towards the right till the bottom of the right chimney is reached. We go up this and find ourselves at the second quartz ledge below the eave. Here an easy traverse to the east leads round a projecting nose to a series of chimneys and ribs, up which the climb lies.

The rock is sound, and in no place is there any difficulty, while there are excellent resting-places and good holds and belays. This route, though steep, is especially to be recommended to those who are commencing their experience of Lliwedd, as interest is sustained throughout, and climbers of moderate experience have the satisfaction of feeling that they will find no obstacle that is not well within their powers.



*Q<sup>1</sup>* Quartz Ledge Traverse.  
 $\frac{Q^2}{Q^1}$        $\frac{Q^3}{Q^2}$        $\frac{Q^4}{Q^3}$        $\frac{Q^5}{Q^4}$        $\frac{Q^6}{Q^5}$       (variation)



## THE SLANTING WALK *A W. Andress*



## VARIATION.

A more difficult exit can be made from the Slanting Gully by traversing to the east along the quartz ledge immediately below the slab. This is, however, unsuitable for beginners.

The Slanting Wall is then climbed by firm rocks, and the route previously described can be joined at almost any point.

## THE SLANTING GULLY

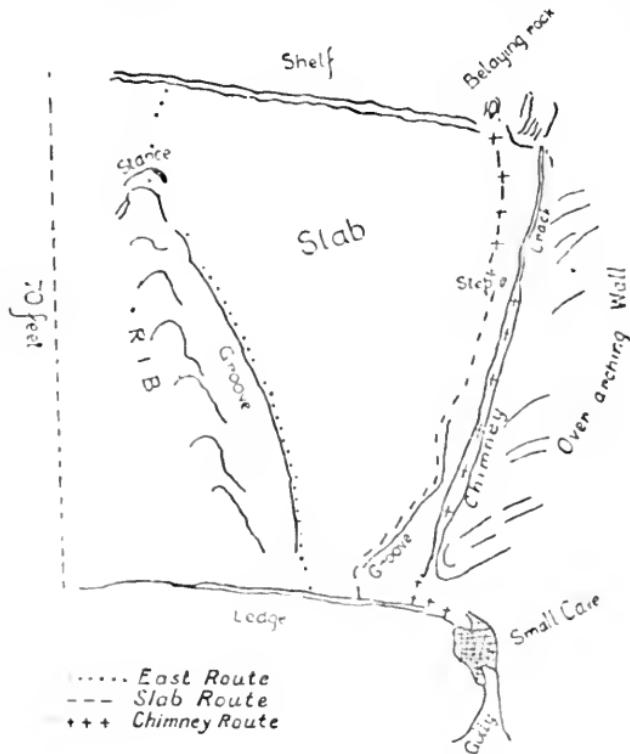
**A** well-marked gully, with one steep pitch and two small ones.

The chief pitch consists of a moderately difficult chimney and a steep slab. It may also be climbed on the slab throughout by two difficult routes. For the latter the leader requires 80 feet of rope; otherwise, 50 feet suffice. Any number. Good belays. Unsuitable in wet weather.

The lower part of the Slanting Gully, though not quite so deeply cut as some of the upper part of the Central Gully, more nearly resembles the ordinary gully met with in North Wales than any other on Lliwedd.

Easy climbing at a moderate angle, with large shelves, leads us to the first difficulty, a rib which blocks the centre. Here the angle steepens. A chimney on either the left or the right can be followed, or a line on the rib between them, to the ledge above. For the account of a still easier way, compare Slanting Gully and Slanting Wall Climb. A short

stretch of easy climbing now leads to a small cave. The exit is on a ledge running horizontally eastwards. From this rises the slab which at its west end forms with the



CAVE PITCH. SLANTING GULLY.

overarching wall of the gully a convenient chimney. The leader ascends this for about 45 feet, and is then followed by the second man, who can wedge in and belay the rope. The

former then goes out on the slab to an excellent foothold, and with a step to the left reaches a line of small sound holes, which continues to the top of the pitch. Here there is an excellent belay.

The chimney above the level of exit contracts into a crack, the beginning of which was taken on the first ascent; but it should now be avoided, because some of the rocks in it are dangerously loose.

Another route is to climb the slab from the ledge to the foothold mentioned above, and a third wholly different alternative is to proceed a few yards east along the ledge, and climb a shallow groove which slopes upwards to the left. Beside this is an ill-defined rib, the summit of which forms a secure place to sit or stand. From here an easy 10 feet lead us to the shelf above. These two alternatives are more exposed, and the leader has to ascend the whole distance alone.

To those, however, who enjoy slabs these are to be recommended, as the holds are good and thoroughly dependable. They afford good practice for the more difficult slab climbs on Lliwedd, such as the Central Chimney Route.

Above the slabs, rocks on the east or the gully itself lead to the summit. The climbing in the gully is interesting and safe, though the vegetation renders it somewhat unpleasant unless perfectly dry.

## SECTION IV

### THE SLANTING BUTTRESS

### THE NEEDLE TRAVERSE CLIMB

Lies throughout between the Slanting Gully and the Ridge Route. Climbing of a high order. An exposed rib of more than 200 feet and a delicate traverse. Calm weather and dry rocks imperative. Suitable for three. Leader requires 70 feet of rope, or 90 feet if the climb is approached from the Gully.

THE climb is begun near the two broad bands of quartz at the foot of the Buttress. A shallow, indefinite gully and a steep bank of moss are ascended to a charming nook, overshadowed on the west side by a massive rib. Here there is just room for three men. The fine view of the Slanting Wall will be noticed. Proceeding in the same line up a rocky slope, moderately inclined, we reach a spacious shelf of heather (2,280 feet).

An alternative route thus far is to ascend the Slanting Gully for 100 feet, and then break out. The connexion is very steep. The rock is good and the holds are sufficient, but the leader requires a "run out" of fully 80 feet of rope.



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*A. E. Elias*

RECOLLECTION OF THE SLANTING BUTTRESS.



A short distance above the shelf a starved ash-tree, easily reached, stands at the foot of a grassy recess. This is avoided altogether by traversing horizontally a few yards west of the tree to an upright spike of rock, 10 feet high. The leader now stands with his left foot on the top of this needle and his right foot on a ledge upon the parent wall, and works slowly round a salient corner. By its abruptness the centre of gravity is pushed out over Cwm Dyli to the farthest limit consistent with comfort, but the rope will be round the needle. Once round the curtain, he crosses a smooth slab into the bed of a sharply-defined gully with clean rock walls. This he climbs for a few yards, to some fine bollards on the right side, which afford an absolutely secure resting-place (belay). The second man joins the leader. A huge chock-stone blocks the gully just above the resting-place. This difficult obstacle is furnished with small sound holds. A sufficiently good stance is obtained a little above it. Fifty feet beyond the pitch the gully widens and terminates in a grassy slope. This part is avoided by climbing an isolated rib which stands out boldly at this level. Forty feet above, the rib ends suddenly (cairn, 2,490 feet), but another begins and continues for 230 feet to the summit of the Buttress. The upper part is less well defined, and more than one line may be possible. The various green chimneys seen on either hand are unsafe, but on the exposed rib, which is uncommonly steep, the rock is excellent, and so laminated that good handholds can be

obtained by gripping thin edges between the fingers and palm of the hand. The stances are sound, though small, but opportunities to belay are infrequently met with. Real climbing continues to the summit (cairn, 2,720 feet).

### THE SLANTING BUTTRESS

#### THE RIDGE ROUTE

**A** ridge, followed by a traverse and a chimney. Good belays. Sound rock. Very little grass. Suitable for five or six patient climbers, at intervals of 40 feet.

The boundaries of this Buttress are the Slanting Gully on the east side and the Ciliau Gully on the west.

Several of the routes of the West Peak are too spongy, and others, free from turf, are too difficult to be enjoyed in wet weather. The Ridge Route on the Slanting Buttress is then the best choice, and is at all times a very attractive climb. Two broad bands of quartz near the foot of the Slanting Gully (2,100 feet) mark a rocky glacis, whereon several staircases converge on a deep rectangular recess (2,340 feet). A grassy gully on the west side of the cleft is not recommended. At the entrance to the recess good holds on the left wall lead to a corner beside a vein of quartz (2,375 feet). The same point may be reached by climbing in the recess as far as a protuberance of rock, and then traversing out by a little ledge. The inside route

is the harder of the two, but tradition will not be greatly violated if the leader choose the one and his companions the other. The existence of these and of several other parallel passages accounts for the failure on the part of many climbers to identify the details of the climb with a good description of it already at their disposal. This explained, it will suffice to indicate one alternative only, and that the more obvious of the two. We climb over the quartz corner beneath an overhanging rock, and find on the east side a short chimney, which soon becomes, through the loss of its left wall, a sufficiently broad shelf, sloping upwards. At the top the edge of the ridge is regained (2,410 feet), and followed to the point, where it merges in the face (cairn, 2,480 feet). On the way, a curiously poised boulder is passed.

We now traverse obliquely upwards along a good ledge running west, and then ascend 15 feet of grass to a clean rock chimney (2,570 feet). When the greater part of this has been climbed, the hold given by a strong peg of rock on the right enables us to step over to a notch on a rib, and reach on the farther side a beautifully sheltered bay (belaying block, 2,600 feet). From here, the summit ridge is reached easily in five minutes.

## THE GIRDLE TRAVERSE OF LLIWEDD

Suitable for two or three experienced climbers already familiar with the routes and difficulties of Lliwedd. Time taken by first explorers, five and a half hours, including halts. Three climbers might need nine hours, with three hours for approach and descent. Leader needs 80 feet of rope, but an interval of 40 feet only is convenient for most of the way. On all the hard passages one climber is secure. It is rarely advisable for two to move simultaneously.

This expedition presents problems so numerous and varied in character that they feed the appetite for novelty with perpetual gratifications. It is strongly recommended to Alpinists of catholic tastes, for experience of most forms of rock-climbing and an acquaintance with the art of mountaineering are requisite for finding a way through the bewildering labyrinth of crags that go to make up the north face of Lliwedd. Intricacy forms one of the distinctive features of the climb, and is in a great measure the source of its peculiar charm.

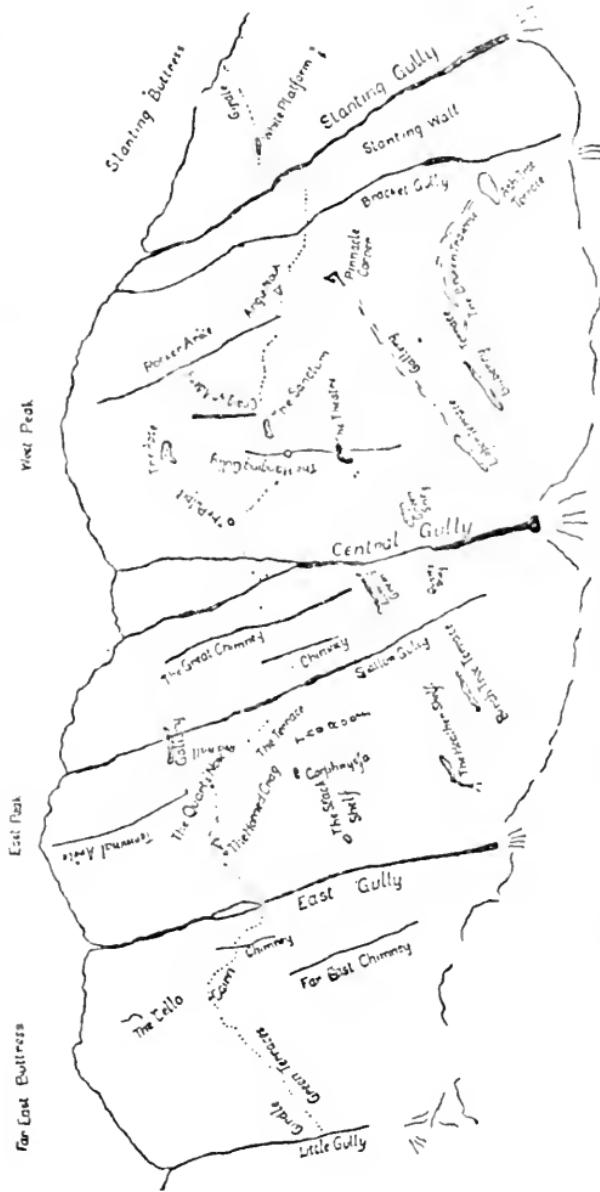
The sister summits of the mountain (2,945 feet) are nearly 1,000 feet above the scree, so that 2,470 feet may be taken as the altitude of the line whereby the main peaks

would be horizontally bisected. Excluding the final rise to the ridge, the sinuous course steered across the face is kept within 50 feet of this equator. The central zone thus defined is reached from the Little Gully that bounds the Far East Buttress by scrambling up two green terraces, which are connected by a short but steep recess. Here, and here only throughout the climb, is progress retarded by vegetation. Many of the obstacles encountered differ widely from the normal type; it will be useful to number these "truly delectable places." This is No. 1 of the series, and the only obstruction on the way to the ruined cairn built on the first ascent of the Far East Buttress. Passing this, we follow the slope downwards, cross a chimney, and warily descend into the East Gully. This incline (No. 2) is steep and smooth, and the supply of holds meagre. The lower man hitches the rope over a small knob. The bed of the gully is crossed on a band of quartz, and on the farther side we rise to the former level at the top of the Horned Crag, 2,520 feet, the maximum height of our present ambition. Thence we profit by a natural traverse trending west. This promises well, but ends in a crevasse. Each man in turn disappears into its depths, effects a lodgment on the far wall, embraces a rib, and then slithers down a few feet into safety (No. 3). The last man will be glad to know that his predecessor has the rope hitched at a projecting corner (belay). Round this we now pass, and reach the Quartz Nose (2,510 feet). This pleasant spot of ground

is the best choice for a rest. No other commands a view of the two favourite routes away on the West Peak. A party thereon should be hailed, for it is well to remember that any débris disturbed on the upper part sweeps the gully we hope eventually to cross. We now descend the rocky Terrace, *en route* for the Pulpit on the West Peak. That Capua, however, is defended by three outlying entrenchments on the East Peak, designed on the same principle, and tilted to an angle of *x*-ty degrees. The first or Shallow Gully, shows two points favourable for attack, some 20 feet apart. Of these, the higher looks easier than it is, while the lower is less difficult than it looks. We walk down the counterscarp into the fosse (No. 4), scale the scarp by sidling along a row of flakes, which must be carefully selected; then, stepping over the corner, halt for the next corner on a relatively wide stance. Thence our way lies open to a mass of quartz, and to a second and similar defence, which yields with less readiness to precisely similar tactics (No. 5). For a short distance we now traverse by a streak of quartz across bare slabs, but that exquisite pleasure is soon interrupted by the solid barrier of the third entrenchment. Here the farther wall arches over the fosse, which drops below at an angle of 70 to 80 degrees. The supports should be brought up to give confidence for the assault. Failure at this critical point entails complete defeat. With this stimulating thought, and the certain knowledge that his comrade is wedged







## THE NORTH FACE OF LLIWEDD, WITH THE GIRDLE TRAVERSE.

somewhere in the dyke, the leader steps across and works out horizontally to the skyline. Expectancy is on the strain when, shifting his poise for the decisive move, he proceeds to round the corner to the last and lowest stance. This done, he perceives a blank wall stretching in front as far as eye can reach.

Though antiquarian research has recently shown that climbing was a pastime in the ancient days of Hammurabi, the name of the benevolent deity who patronizes the art is still unknown, howbeit the marvels of his handiwork are constantly discovered by explorers on Lliwedd at spots where their chances seem almost desperate. A finely chiselled rectangular trench has here been cut in the living rock to a depth and a width which exactly correspond to the average dimensions of man. It is the sole means of access to a narrow and necessary ledge above, and the climb thereto is short, straight, and vertical (No. 6). By means of this traverse and the help of his proper god, the climber has got over the wall of the Great Chimney. His way now lies over open slabs, whose gradual dip he cautiously follows into the main channel of the Central Gully (No. 7). This is crossed (2,470 feet) above the Divide, and, when its very smooth west wall is overcome, an easy scramble remains to the Pulpit on the West Peak (2,520 feet). The half-way halt must be brief, unless the second party better the pace of the first, who roped at 12.45, spent thirty minutes at the Nose, and reached the

Pulpit at four o'clock. We can now move with greater freedom, and, hastening downwards and westwards, cross the Hanging Gully by the green patch to the Sanctum (2,470 feet). Leaving this (No. 8) in the manner already described,\* we skirt the base of Craig-yr-Aderyn, and, after a short descent, pass along the traverse to the Angle Nook. Continuing westwards, we descend somewhat to effect a breach in a projecting arête. This crossed (2,470 feet), our course undulates with but slight variations of level. No trace, however, of any natural traverse is discoverable. We find or force a way across a series of prominent ribs and the couloirs that lie between them (No. 9), till at length, rounding a corner on a very narrow quartz ledge, we strike at a right angle into the Slanting Gully at the foot of the far-famed Slab Pitch (No. 10, 2,470 feet). After so many flanking movements, a direct frontal attack comes as a pleasing variation; neither would it be a great economy of time to go round the celebrated obstacle, for its ascent by two climbers hardly occupies a quarter of an hour. The belaying-baluster at the top is treated somewhat cavalierly as a stirrup for getting on to the nearly vertical west wall (No. 11). Here the sloping eaves of rock, and the lines of holds so far as they are discernible, persistently follow the direction of the gully. We have, in fact, on this stretch of 50 feet a faithful replica in miniature of the formation characteristic of the face. By reason of its

\* Page 67.

nature and difficulty this climb across the grain forms a peculiarly fitting finish to our day's proceedings. We land upon a shining white platform on the Slanting Buttress (cairn). The pitch has taken us beyond the limit of the Central Zone, but our object is already achieved. With a final traverse westward we strike the main ridge above Bwlch Ciliau at an altitude of 2,580 feet.

It is pleasant to complete the circuit over the Snowdon Cribyn to Glaslyn.

Where so many routes are intersected there is plainly no risk of being benighted on the face. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the route will never be cairned. The charm of novelty and the charm of familiarity are realized alternately by linking together natural landmarks noted on previous ascents. The view in front rarely extends beyond 16 yards, so that the pleasure of finding a route, as well as that of coping with its difficulties, remains undiminished throughout the expedition. In the course of its length, which probably exceeds 3,000 feet, it is only occasionally advisable for a party to move together.

The Traverse of Lliwedd is rendered peculiarly fascinating by the unique qualities it possesses. In length, interest, and variety there is no climb comparable to it on the mountains of England and Wales.



*J. M. A. Thomson*  
A TYPICAL OBSTACLE.



## ACCIDENTS ON LLIWEDD

ON the Snowdon massif no fatal accident has befallen climbers roped together, but two lives have been lost on Lliwedd.

On May 20, 1888, Alfred Evans and two friends began the ascent of the West Peak at 5.5 p.m. The party was fatigued. The first man carried a 60-foot rope, but it was decided not to rope up. The climb was begun in the Central Gully, which the first man left by the traverse from the Quartz Shelf. The gully was wet, and in consequence Evans, with the third man, left it by traversing at a lower level, a short distance above the Upper Terrace. Here again Evans got into difficulties. The rope was lowered, but was not long enough to go round the waist. The two men decided to go down, so the first man went up. Evans, however, made a further and final effort to ascend, but slipped and fell some 200 feet to the scree. When the third man reached the spot life was extinct. The emergency might have been easily met. The accident happened, not on the route of 1883, as has been stated authoritatively, nor on the Central Gully and West Peak Route, as is generally believed, but close beside the Primitive Route, where the

climber's cap (containing chrysalides) and other plain indications of the fatality were found by the writer eleven years after the accident.

On August 30, 1894, T. Mitchell, an assistant editor of the "New Historical Dictionary," tried to make alone the first ascent of the Slanting Gully. He possessed natural aptitude without experience. After reaching the cave he proceeded, not up the chimney, as has been erroneously stated, but up the flanking slabs as far as a good "step," about 25 feet from the top. Here he remained for half an hour, no doubt thinking it impossible to get down, as it certainly was to climb up from his then position. The concave foothold on the left now in use then supported a rounded projection. On the other hand, there was no chance of getting up into the crack otherwise than by trusting wholly to a wedged stone that spanned it. This revolved on its axis when pulled. It is more than probable that this movement, which was quite sufficient to disturb the equilibrium, caused the slip and the fatal fall that followed. After an interval of some years it was found that both these stones had disappeared, but, strange to say, a different stone had appeared tightly wedged lower down in the chimney. It affords a capital belay at the exact spot, most convenient for the climber.

This accident illustrates the folly of climbing alone before attaining proficiency in the art of descent.

## CHRONOLOGICAL LIST

		First Ascent of West Peak
1883.	January 4.	(possibly by Bilberry { A. H. Stocker. Terrace Route, with { T. W. Wall. west variation).
1884.	April.	Primitive Route. { A. H. Stocker. { A. G. Parker.
1887.	April.	Central Gully and West Peak. { O. Eckenstein. { T. V. Scully.
1894.	October.	Intermediate Route. { J. M. A. Thomson. { H. Hughes. { H. Edwards.
1894.	December.	Bilberry Terrace Route. { H. Edwards. { J. M. A. Thomson. { H. R. Smith.
1896.	April.	East Gully. { J. M. A. Thomson. { O. Eckenstein. { H. Edwards. { H. Hughes. { W. A. Thomson.
1897.	Easter.	Slanting Gully. { G. Abraham. { A. Abraham.
1897.	Whitsun.	Craig-yr-Aderyn Route. { J. M. A. Thomson. { C. L. Freeman.
1898.	Easter.	Elliptical Route. { J. M. A. Thomson. { R. Williams.
1903.	April 24.	First Ascent of East Peak, Central Route. { J. M. A. Thomson. { O. Eckenstein.
1904.	April.	Slanting Buttress. { G. Abraham. { A. Abraham.

1904.	June.	Direct Route, West Peak.	{ J. M. A. Thomson. A. E. Elias.
1904.	July.	Bracket Gully, West Peak.	{ J. M. A. Thomson. A. E. Elias.
1904.	September.	Route II., East Peak.	{ J. M. A. Thomson. O. Eckenstein.
1905.	April.	Reade's Variation (now included in the Roof Route).	{ H. V. Reade. R. C. Crivelli. H. A. Beeching.
1905.	Easter.	Far East Buttress.	{ J. M. A. Thomson. A. E. Elias.
1905.	September.	Slanting Wall.	{ J. B. Farmer. A. W. Andrews. O. Eckenstein.
1905.	September.	Horned Crag Route (or Route III.).	{ J. M. A. Thomson. O. Eckenstein.
1906.	June.	Slanting Gully and Slanting Wall.	{ A. W. Andrews.
1906.	September.	Central Gully and East Peak.	{ J. B. Farmer. A. W. Andrews. Mrs. Farmer. O. Eckenstein.
1906.	September.	Slanting Gully and Slanting Wall (variation).	{ R. F. Backwell. O. Eckenstein. R. Langford James. F. Langford James. M. K. Smith.
1907.	March.	Shallow Gully, East Peak.	{ H. V. Reade. G. W. Young.
1907.	March.	Roof Route, East Peak.	{ G. W. Young. H. V. Reade. A. W. Andrews.
1907.	Easter.	Central Gully, East Peak and Central Gully.	{ W. R. Reade. J. B. Farmer. A. W. Andrews. G. Bartrum. O. Eckenstein.

1907. April.	The Great Chimney.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{J. M. A. Thomson.} \\ \text{H. O. Jones.} \\ \text{O. Eckenstein.} \end{array} \right.$
1907. April.	Stack Shelf and Central Connexion, East Peak.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{J. M. A. Thomson.} \\ \text{H. O. Jones.} \end{array} \right.$
1907. May.	West Wall of Great Chimney.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{J. M. A. Thomson.} \\ \text{R. Todhunter.} \end{array} \right.$
1907. September.	Stack Shelf and Black Arête Route, East Peak.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{J. M. A. Thomson.} \end{array} \right.$
1907. September.	Independent Continuation of Route II.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{J. M. A. Thomson.} \\ \text{E. S. Reynolds.} \end{array} \right.$
1907. September.	Needle Traverse Climb, Slanting Buttress.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{J. M. A. Thomson.} \\ \text{E. S. Reynolds.} \end{array} \right.$
1907. September.	The Girdle Traverse.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{J. M. A. Thomson.} \\ \text{E. S. Reynolds.} \end{array} \right.$
1907. September.	Avalanche Route, East Peak.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{J. M. A. Thomson.} \\ \text{E. S. Reynolds.} \end{array} \right.$
1908. August.	The Slab Climb, East Peak.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{G. H. L. Mallory.} \end{array} \right.$
1908. September.	Rocker Route, West Peak.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{J. M. A. Thomson.} \\ \text{E. S. Reynolds.} \end{array} \right.$
1908. October.	Central Chimney Route, East Peak.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{A. W. Andrews.} \\ \text{J. B. Farmer.} \end{array} \right.$
1908. October.	Variation of Central Gully, East Peak and Central Gully.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{F. Aldous.} \\ \text{B. Hossly.} \end{array} \right.$

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